



BALDWIN'S

The Name for Numismatics

CLASSICAL RARITIES

OF ISLAMIC
COINAGE



Islamic Coin Auction 19
Wednesday 25 April 2012

To be held in the Pine Room at The Westbury Mayfair Hotel, London

Catalogs - Foreign





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OF ISLAMIC
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Wednesday, 25 April 2012

The Westbury Hotel
Bond Street
Mayfair London, W1S 2YF
The Pine Room

5.00 pm precisely

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INTRODUCTION

A. H. Baldwin & Sons Ltd are proud to present this incredible auction we have entitled "CLASSICAL RARITIES OF ISLAMIC COINAGE", which is a truly unparalleled catalogue offering 150 lots of beautiful Islamic coins. The interest in this subject has grown internationally in recent years, with new collectors regularly asking us to help them build their collections. We have chosen to celebrate our 140th Year in business and nearly 15 years of holding specialist Islamic auctions with this spectacular event in order to serve the interest of collectors, museums and institutions.



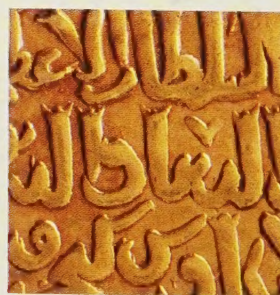
The auction begins with four Sasanian style silver coins from the Iranian world followed by a unique lead document Seal which records an important act of the first Umayyad Caliph Mu'awiya bin Abi Sufyan, and a mint tool of Muhammad bin Marwan, brother of the Caliph 'Abd al-Malik. This takes the form of a glass weight that governs the seven to ten ratio between the Mithqal and the Dirham, the earliest mention of this famous coinage standard.

Among the other great treasures in this auction are a remarkable group of Umayyad Gold Dinars, including the famous coin of 105h struck in *Ma'dan Amir al-Mu'minin bi'l-Hijaz* (Mine of the Commander of the Faithful in the Hijaz) in uncirculated condition. There is also a full set of Dinars of every year (lot 9), beginning with the much sought after year 77h and ending with that of 132h, as well as the first Abbasid type Dinars struck in the same year (lots 50-51). The sale continues with a series of Abbasid Dinars from various mints whose gold coinage is unknown or extremely rare, and ends with the last Abbasid coin struck in Madinat al-Salam (Baghdad) in 656h, the final year of the dynasty in Iraq (lot 84).

This spectacular event then offers the largest group ever assembled of Dinars and Dirhams struck in the Holy City of Makka. This includes the famous gold Dinar dated 252h, struck from gold which had been used to cover the *Makam Ibrahim* outside the Ka'ba (lot 93), an unrecorded silver Dirham issued in the same year (lot 94), the excessively rare Ikhshidid Abu'l-Misk Kafur gold Dinar struck in 357h naming Kafur as ruler in his own right (lot 103) and a previously unknown Fatimid coin of al-Mustansir with the mint name *Madinat Rasul Allah* (City of God's Messenger) dated 450h (lot 106). The last coin in this series is a unique pattern guinea of the first gold coinage of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (lot 107).

There are two extraordinary coins of the first Rasulid ruler of the Yemen, al-Mansur 'Umar, which were manufactured to mark his pilgrimage to the Holy Cities in Mina (a suburb of Makka) in 636h, one struck in gold, the other silver (lots 121 and 122).

Next we can see an exciting selection of rare coins, all of which are highly desirable for connoisseur collectors of Islamic coins from all periods. One of the most artistic items to be offered here is a Renaissance Medal bearing a portrait of the young Mehmed Fatih which provides the most accurate likeness that we have of this great ruler (lot 129). The Ottoman gold Five Ashrafi of Ahmad III (lot 130) is considered to be one of the most beautiful coins ever to have been struck and was often kept as a family treasure.





Every lot in the amazing auction is worthy of mention but of special note in the later stages are a gold Guinea issued by the Mahdi of the Sudan (lot 133) and two spectacular presentation Dinars struck by the Ilkhan Uljaytu and his son Abu-Sa'id in Baghdad (lots 141 and 142). These are followed by three gold coins of their ephemeral successors, including Sati Beg Khatun, the only female ruler to be represented in the sale.

The sale comes to a close with a splendid gold medal of the Qajar ruler Nasir al-din Shah and a coin that was issued to mark his return to Tehran after his European tour.

*"...all that a serious collector
of Islamic coins could desire ..."*

A note about rarity

There are no common coins in the sale, and most, if not all, are at least very rare, while many are extremely rare or previously unrecorded. Where practicable, the references used in this catalogue include the number of specimens known for individual items. The lead seal of Mu'awiya (lot 5), the glass weight of Muhammad bin Marwan (lot 6), and the medal of Mehmed Fatih (lot 129) are all unique as far as we are aware at this time. However, we feel that endless repetition of superlatives, however well deserved, can be tiresome and devalue the item they are used to describe.

Baldwin's hopes that you will find this auction catalogue both interesting and useful. Our team has worked hard to ensure that the information herein is accurate and informative in the wish that this catalogue may be used as a work of reference in the future and an inspiration for your collection of Islamic coins, and, of course, that you will find something in these pages to buy. If you have any questions at all about this auction and the items being offered, please do not hesitate to contact us at auctions@baldwin.co.uk

The auction is being held at 5 o'clock in the evening of Wednesday 25th April at the Westbury Hotel in Mayfair, central London. We sincerely hope that you will be able to join us for what promises to be a memorable event.



Date of Sale: **Wednesday 25 April 2012**
One Session 5.00 pm Lots 1-150

Public View: **Wednesday 25 April 2012**
A H Baldwin and Sons Ltd
11 Adelphi Terrace, London WC2N 6BJ

9.30 am - 3.00 pm

Viewing at all other times **by appointment** at
11 Adelphi Terrace during the preceding one week
9.30 am - 4.00 pm, Monday to Friday

Order of Sale:	Arab Sasanian / Arab Byzantine	Lots 1-7
	Umayyad	Lots 8-47
	Abbasid	Lots 48-87
	Coins struck in The Holy City of Makka	Lots 88-107
	Spanish Umayyad	Lot 108
	Nasrid of Granada	Lot 109
	Al-Murabitid	Lot 110
	Sa'adian Sharifs	Lot 111
	Fatimid	Lots 112-117
	Ayyubid	Lots 118-119
	Bahri Mamluk	Lot 120
	Rasulid	Lots 121-123
	Qaramita of Bahrain	Lots 124-126
	Burid	Lot 127
	Rum Saljuq	Lot 128
	Ottoman and Ottoman Egypt	Lots 129-132
	Mahdi of The Sudan	Lot 133
	Alid of Tabaristan	Lot 134
	Batinid	Lot 135
	Dulafid	Lots 136-137
	Harthamid	Lot 138
	Saljuq of Kirman	Lot 139
	Afrasiyabid	Lot 140
	Ilkhan	Lots 141-147
	Qutlughkhanid	Lot 148
	Qajar	Lots 149-150

Currency: **Pounds Sterling (GBP)**

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CLASSICAL RARITIES OF ISLAMIC COINAGE

ARAB SASANIAN



- 1 **Anonymous**, Silver Drachm, *obv* Sasanian bust to right, in Kufic script *Muhammad rasul Allah* in front of bust in, *Allah* in Kufic retrograde to left behind bust, *bism Allah* in margin between 3 and 6 o'clock, *rev* *mobehts* (attendant priests) flanking fire altar, YZ (= Yazd) mint abbreviation in usual place of date on left, 3.01g (unrecorded, but see Album, Checklist, 34C). *Clipped, good very fine and very rare.* £8,000-10,000

On this remarkable coin the second statement of the kalima appears in place of the governor's name in front of the Sasanian ruler's face. The dating of this type is difficult, but as Muhammad rasul Allah appears on a Drachm of Damascus dated 72h, when the kalima was being introduced to other anonymous coinages, it is likely that this coin was struck at about the this time. It is a previously unrecorded type from a rare mint.



- 2 Arab-Ephthalite, "Gorigo Shah" (c.68-69h), Silver Drachm, Anbir (in Jurjan) 68h, 3.71g (Walker *Arab Sassanian* p.128:247; Album Checklist 90). Good very fine and very rare. £5,000-6,000

The Drachms of the Arab Hephthalites are similar to those of the Arab Sasanians. This one is of the first type with the governor's name in Bactrian script, and a further Bactrian legend around the reverse. The only known mints are Anbir and Marw. Here Gorigo Shah's name appears as *zoloōo gozogano* presumably meaning "the zolo of Juzjan" of which Anbir is the capital. This is a particularly fine specimen of its type, which circulated alongside regular Arab Sasanian Drachms.



- 3 **Ziyad b. Qatran**, Silver Drachm, Hamadhan 61h, *obv* Sasanian bust to right, *Ziyad bin Qatran* in front, *bism Allah* in margin between 3 and 6 o'clock, *rev* *mohbeds* (attendant priests) flanking fire altar, *AHMTAN* (= Hamadhan) to right, *AYWSHASTI* (= 61h) to left, 2.85g (unrecorded for both governor and mint name). *Clipped, good very fine and very rare.* £18,000-20,000

This previously unpublished coin is remarkable in that it spells out the full name of the mint *AHMTAN* in Pahlawi script. It is the latest recorded Arab Sasanian Drachm from this mint which, on the Khusraw II types and those of Ziyad bin Abi Sufyan, inscribe the Pahlawi mint abbreviation *AHM*.



4 **Abbasid Governor of Tabaristan, Rawh b. Hatim, al-Mahdi as heir, Silver Hemidrachm, Tabaristan 146h, 1.94g (unpublished by Malek, see Album S73). *Good very fine and very rare.* £5,000-6,000**

This is a previously unrecorded type of Hemidrachm of Tabaristan where the name of the caliph al-Mahdi as heir appears on the obverse, and that of the Governor Rawh bin Hatim, with the mint and date in Kufic, on the reverse. Rawh also struck regular Abbasid Dirhams from Tabaristan in the second year of his governorship, 147h.



- 5 **Umayyad, Mu'awiya b. Abi Sufyan (41-60h), Uniface Lead Seal, c.44h/664 CE, in unpointed Kufic script, *mimma 'amara bi-hi/amir al-mu'minin/Mu'awiya bi-'azl a/l-amir 'Abd Allah bin 'A/mir min wilaya fi-/al-Basra*, "among those things ordered by the Commander of the Faithful Mu'awiya to dismiss the Amir 'Abd Allah bin 'Amir from the rule of al-Basra", unlike most seals this was not attached with a cord through a drilled hole but rather by a ring attached at 12 o'clock, traces of which can be seen by examining the edge of the seal at the top of the inscription where the mount has been skillfully removed, 21.53g, thickness 3mm, diameter 35mm. *Extremely fine and unique.* £250,000-300,000**

It is recorded that the Caliph Mu'awiya established two *diwans* in the Umayyad administration. The first of these, the *Diwan al-Rasa'il*, looked after correspondence received by Mu'awiya and drafted his replies. This was handled by his *katib* (secretary). Once a document had been drafted, it was passed on to the *Diwan al-Khatam*, or "office of the seal", where two or more copies of each document were made and sealed, at least one to be deposited in the archives while the other was checked, sealed and dispatched to its recipient. This arrangement was set up as a means of preventing forgeries. Unfortunately, over the succeeding centuries the Umayyad archives were dispersed and destroyed, and until the discovery of this object no first hand evidence has survived to corroborate Mu'awiya's administrative innovations.

Arab historians record that 'Abd Allah bin Amir bin Kurayz al-Hadrami was dismissed in 44h (664 CE), bringing an end to his distinguished career. He was a maternal cousin of the Caliph 'Uthman who appointed him Governor of Basra for the first time between 29h and 35h, then, still as a partisan of 'Uthman, he served briefly as Governor of Makka between 35h and 36h. He became a supporter of Mu'awiya I bin Abi-Sufyan during the period of civil war, and after Mu'awiya was recognised as head of the Muslim community he named 'Abd Allah Governor of Basra for the second time in 41h, where he served until his dismissal in 44h. During this period 'Abd Allah carried out successful campaigns in the east and was given responsibility for the provinces of Fars, Sijistan and Khurasan. He was, at this time, the most prominent general serving under Mu'awiya, who may have become jealous of his success both as a military commander and as a popular civil administrator.

While Mu'awiya is known to have issued coinage only in one year in Fars, at the mints of Darabjird and Fasa, 'Abd Allah bin Amir was the first Arab Sasanian governor to place his own name on the silver Drachms struck in eleven mints in Fars, Sijistan and Khurasan with the name 'Abd Allah, and eight with the name 'Abd Allah bin 'Amir. This perhaps excited the jealousy of the caliph, who may well have decided to put a stop to such apparent rivalry. After his dismissal 'Abd Allah went into obscure retirement, and died in 53h.

This lead seal would have validated both the document delivered to 'Abd Allah and the official copy that was kept in the *Diwan al-Khatam*. It would appear that this is the only contemporary incidence where both Mu'awiya's and 'Abd Allah's names are inscribed in Arabic rather than in Pahlawi script, as was used on their coins. It also provides contemporary evidence that Mu'awiya's name was spelled with an *alif* after the *'ayn*. This is the only known surviving object documenting Mu'awiya's name in Arabic. The few known coins struck in his name show it in Pahlawi. One dedicatory inscription exists with the name Mu'awiya in Greek on a public building in Palestine.



- 6 **Muhammad b. Marwan, Governor of the North 73-91h**, Glass Weight, 282.13g, 50mm, *hadha / ma'izzan saba'in / mithqal mi'a / dirham 'amara bi-hi / Muhammad bin Marwan*, "this standard weight is equal to 70 mithqals 100 dirhams by order of Muhammad bin Marwan". Broken but skilfully repaired, which makes it impossible to determine whether any shards of glass were lost from the interior surfaces of the break, otherwise as manufactured and unique. £280,000-320,000

The Caliph 'Abd al-Malik bin Marwan named his brother Muhammad Governor of Mosul, Azerbaijan and Armenia in the year 73h. Muhammad remained in office until he was dismissed by his nephew, the Caliph al-Walid in 91h, and thereafter he faded into obscurity.

This standard weight was issued by Muhammad bin Marwan while he was serving as Viceroy of the North, where he would have been in charge of implementing the Umayyad coinage reform of 77-78h. The piece would have acted as the control tool against which the mint could validate the standard weight of its precious metal coinage.

It is certainly the earliest surviving documentary evidence of the famous seven to ten ratio between the weight of the Mithqal and the Dirham, a standard which has survived in traditional usage ever since that time. With this weight a skilled team of operatives would have been able to establish a mint, it being the central tool around which all other operations of production would have revolved. It is likely that this piece was used to control and validate the weight of the Umayyad silver Dirhams known to have been produced in both Azerbaijan and Armenia in the year 78h.

The discovery of this and the previous lot provides precious evidence of the care and precision employed by the Umayyad administration in the conduct of its business. They also give first hand evidence of the accuracy of subsequent historical research. The fact that they have both survived, and are in such remarkably good condition, is virtually unprecedented.







- 7† *temp.* 'Abd al-Malik b. Marwan, Dechristianised copy of a Byzantine Gold Solidus of the Emperor Heraclius and his two sons, cross removed from the three crowns and the three orbs converted to three knobs, undated (c.72-74h), *rev* the cross has been removed from the vertical staff which terminates with a small knob flanked by the letter B to the left and I to the right, in the margin the legend reads clockwise from 12 o'clock *bism Allah la ilah illa Allah wahda la sharik lahu Muhammad rasul Allah* (no god but God unique, He has no associate, Muhammad is the messenger of God), 4.40g (Miles, *Earliest Arab Gold Coinage*, American Numismatic Society Museum Notes 13, type B, p.210; Bernardi, *Arab Gold Coins* 5; Album, *Checklist*, 3rd edition, 3549). *Good very fine and very rare.* £150,000-200,000

This is an obverse die duplicate (in much better condition) to al-'Ush, *Arab Islamic Coins in Qatar*, vol. 1, no.198 (illustrated on the spine of the book's dust jacket). It is the earliest gold coin to contain the *kalima*, the Islamic statement of faith, in its legends. Although it is undated it clearly precedes the Standing Caliph coinage of 74-77h and is attributed to the years 72-73h.



- 8 **Anonymous**, Silver Dirham, Wasit 44h (*sic*), 2.75g (mint and date combination unrecorded by Klat in *Post Reform Dirhams*). *Very fine and very rare.* £8,000-10,000

This coin, while a genuine Umayyad Dirham, bears an impossible mint and date combination. It is possible that an inexperienced die-sinker in the newly-established Wasit mint absent-mindedly repeated *arba'* (four) in place of *thaman* (eight) in the decade. Such errors are very rarely found in the Umayyad series.

AN EXCEPTIONAL GROUP OF Umayyad GOLD COINS

The favourite collecting goal for those interested in Islamic coins is to make up a full set of Umayyad Dinars struck between the years 77h and 132h.

The Umayyad gold Dinar was the currency which powered the expansion of the Islamic community from Central Asia in the east to the Atlantic Ocean in the west. The gold for this coinage came from the conquests of the Arabian armies and united the Muslim world into one huge monetary union, much as the British Sovereign was the currency of choice in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The earliest coin in the series is the very rare and sought after Dinar of 77 of the Hijra, the year in which the Umayyad Caliph 'Abd al-Malik bin Marwan ordered the striking of the first coinage bearing no images and inscribed with legends drawn from the Holy Qur'an. This coin provided the model for all subsequent Umayyad Dinars, and established the general conventions of Islamic coinage for many centuries to come.





9 A Set of the Umayyad reform Gold Coinage, Dinars (56), Anonymous, without mint name

temp. 'Abd al-Malik b. Marwan: 77h, 4.13g, possibly ex-mount, polished, very fine;

In the year 77h of the Hijra the Caliph 'Abd al-Malik introduced a fully Islamic gold coin carrying legends found in the Holy Qur'an. This is the most sought-after Islamic coin, whose legends set the pattern for centuries to come.

78h, 4.26, graffiti in obverse field, extremely fine; 79h, 4.28g, minor graffiti in reverse field, good very fine,

80h, 4.22, very fine; 81h, 4.22, very fine; 82h, 4.22g, good very fine;

83h, 4.25g, graffiti on obv. extremely fine; 84h, 4.21, very fine; 85h, 4.23g, good very fine;

temp. 'Abd al-Malik/al-Walid I: 86h, 4.03g, very fine;

temp. al-Walid I b. 'Abd al-Malik: 87h, 4.29g, good very fine; 88h, 4.21g, good very fine; 89h, 4.29g,

extremely fine; 90h, 4.26g, extremely fine; 91h, 4.17g, slightly clipped, good very fine; 92h, 4.28g, extremely fine;

93h, 4.03g, clipped, very fine; 94h, 4.27g, about uncirculated; 95h, 4.28g, graffiti in obv. field, extremely fine;

temp. al-Walid I/Sulayman: 96h, 4.27g, good extremely fine;

temp. Sulayman b. 'Abd al-Malik: 97h, 4.22g, good very fine; 98h, 4.26g, extremely fine;

temp. Sulayman/'Umar II: 99h, 3.98g, clipped, good very fine;

temp. 'Umar II b. 'Abd al-'Aziz: 100h, 4.26g, about uncirculated;

temp. 'Umar/Yazid II: 101h, 4.23g, extremely fine;

temp. Yazid II b. 'Abd al-Malik: 102h, 4.21g, about extremely fine; 103h, 4.19g, good very fine;

104h, 4.25g, extremely fine;

temp. Yazid II/Hisham: 105h, 4.27g, about uncirculated;

temp. Hisham b. 'Abd al-Malik: 106h, 4.25g, uncirculated, 107h, 4.25g, good very fine; 108h, 4.25g, extremely fine;

109h, 4.25g, good extremely fine; 110h, 4.25, good extremely fine; 111h, 4.24g, extremely fine;

112h, 4.25g, good extremely fine; 113h, 4.12g, clipped, good very fine; 114h, 4.27g, extremely fine;

115h, 4.24g, extremely fine; 116h, 4.25g, very slight graffiti on rev, uncirculated; 117h, 4.02g, clipped, very fine;

118h, 4.25g, extremely fine; 119h, 4.21g, good very fine; 120h, 4.25g, good extremely fine; 121h, 4.26g, uncirculated;

122h, 4.23g, good very fine; 123h, 4.20g, good very fine; 124h, 4.24g, good very fine;

temp. Hisham/al-Walid II: 125h, 4.16g, slightly clipped, good very fine;

temp. al-Walid II/Yazid III/Ibrahim: 126h, 4.25g, good very fine;

temp. Ibrahim/Marwan II: 127h, 4.25g, extremely fine;

temp. Marwan II b. Muhammad: 128h, 4.26g, good very fine; 129h, 4.27g, good extremely fine;

130h, 4.25g, good very fine; 131h, 4.22g, good very fine; 132h, 4.25g, about uncirculated.

£300,000-350,000



10 † *temp.* 'Umar II, Gold Dinar, Ifriqiya 100h, 4.18g (Bernardi 44 Ca, 1 ref). *Good extremely fine and extremely rare.* £40,000-50,000

This is the earliest Umayyad post-reform Dinar struck in Ifriqiya, probably in the city of Qayrawan in Tunisia, in 100h. Although it is a full Dinar, its legends are identical to those found on the ½-Dinar denomination from Syria.



11 † *temp.* 'Umar II/Yazid II, Gold Dinar, Ifriqiya 101h, 4.21g (Bernardi 44 Ca). *Extremely fine and rare.* £15,000-20,000



- 12 † *temp.* 'Umar II/Yazid II, Gold ½-Dinar/Nisf, without mint name 101h, 2.07g (Bernardi 45). *Good very fine and extremely rare.* £6,000-8,000

This is the last recorded ½-Dinar struck in the east. The ½-Dinar denomination was much rarer than the *thulth* or ⅓-Dinar and is readily distinguished from the latter by the prominent pellet found below the lower line of the reverse field copied from the design of the Byzantine semissis.



- 13 † *temp.* Yazid II (101-105h), Gold Dinar, Ifriqiya 102h, 4.26g (Bernardi 44 Ca). *Extremely fine and rare.* £15,000-20,000



- 14 † *temp. Yazid II, Gold Dinar, al-Andalus 102h, 4.30g (Bernardi 44 Aa). Softly struck in the centre, extremely fine and very rare.* £20,000-25,000



- 15 † *temp. Yazid II, Gold 1/2-Dinar/Nisf, al-Andalus 102h, 2.14g (Bernardi 45 Aa). Extremely fine and extremely rare.* £20,000-25,000



- 16 † *temp. Yazid II, Gold 1/3-Dinar/Thulth, al-Andalus 102h, 1.46g (Bernardi 46 Aa). About uncirculated and extremely rare.* £20,000-25,000

While all three of the coins in lots 14 to 16 are individually very rare, to have all three offered in one sale is a truly exceptional opportunity. At present the only known set is in the American Numismatic Society in New York.



- 17 *temp. Yazid II/Hisham, Gold Dinar, Ma'dan al-Mu'minin al-Hijaz ("Mine of the Commander of the Faithful (in) the Hijaz") 105h, 4.27g (Bernardi 48 Ed; Album 134K). Uncirculated and extremely rare. £1,500,000-2,000,000*

This is arguably the most important coin ever struck in the Arabian Peninsula. It is the earliest gold coin which names a locality in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in this case the birthplace of the Faith, the Hijaz, the land of the Holy Cities of Makka and Medina.

This extremely rare Dinar is considered to be of gold mined at the Ma'dan Amir al-Mu'minin bi'l Hijaz, "the Mine of the Commander of the Faithful in the Hijaz". Dr George C Miles, the most eminent Islamic numismatist of the twentieth century, identifies this mint with Ma'dan (later Harrah) Bani Sulaym, southeast of Madina and northwest of Makka, on the pilgrimage route between Baghdad and Makka. Arab historians record that the Umayyad Caliph 'Umar bin 'Abd al-'Aziz bought a piece of land, on which there was a mine, from Bilal bin al-Harith, who had received the land from the Prophet Muhammad himself. It is also virtually certain that Ma'dan Bani Sulaym is today's Mahd al-Dhahab, the site of the gold mine worked by the Saudi Arabian Mining Syndicate.



18 † *temp. Hisham*, Gold Dinar, Ifriqiya 114h, 4.26g (Bernardi 43 Ca). *Metal defect on the obverse at 3 o'clock, good very fine and extremely rare.* £50,000-60,000

By this time the legends on the gold Dinars in both east and west followed the same wording and pattern, with the exception of the Umayyad mints in Ifriqiya and al-Andalus which also bore their mint names in the reverse marginal legend



19 † *temp. Hisham*, Gold Dinar, Ifriqiya 122h, 4.27g (Bernardi 43Ca, the latest Dinar recorded from Ifriqiya).
Slightly double struck on the obverse, otherwise extremely fine and extremely rare. £50,000-60,000

It is possible that this coinage was struck to support the first Muslim campaign against the Byzantines in Sicily.

AN EXCEPTIONAL GROUP OF Umayyad Silver Dirhams



- 20 † *temp.* 'Abd al-Malik, Silver Dirham, Bardasir 79h, 2.93g (Klat Post-Reform Umayyad Dirhams 158, 1 ref) Stained in places, otherwise extremely fine and very rare. £8,000-10,000

Bardasir is the first of the five *khurras* (districts) in the province of Kirman, at the location of the modern city of Kirman.



- 21 *temp.* 'Abd al-Malik, Silver Dirham, Bizamqubadh 79h, 2.77g (Klat 160, 2 refs). Cleaned, very fine and very rare. £8,000-10,000

Bizamqubadh was apparently the original name of the town of Arrijan, the principal town of the third *khurra* in the province of Fars.



- 22 † *temp.* 'Abd al-Malik, Silver Dirham, al-Zawabi 79h, 2.94g (Klat 414, 1 ref). Crude, about extremely fine and extremely rare. £20,000-25,000

While the mint name is clearly inscribed, the locality has not been fully identified. One expert considers that it was in Iraq. ex Islamic Coin Auction 14, Baldwin's, July 2008, lot 29



- 23 *temp.* 'Abd al-Malik, Silver Dirham, Fil 79h, 2.78g (Klat 514, 16 refs). *Very fine, ex-mount.* £6,000-8,000

Fil (which means elephant) is an unsatisfactory reading. The town of Fil, known to have been in Afghanistan, had not yet been conquered at this time. However, other readings have not yielded any better alternative.



- 24 *temp.* 'Abd al-Malik, Silver Dirham, Mah al-Basra 79h, 2.71g (Klat 550, 13 refs). *About extremely fine and rare.* £4,000-5,000

Mah al-Basra was the Arab name for the town of Nihawand in the province of Jibal. It received its name because its revenues were allocated to pay the pensions of veterans in al-Basra in Iraq.



- 25 *temp.* 'Abd al-Malik, Silver Dirham, Risha (= Ras al-'Ayn) 80h, 3.07g (date for mint unrecorded by Klat). *Ringed, pierced and plugged, otherwise very fine and extremely rare.* £10,000-12,000

The name Risha was originally read as "Ralsa", which was an unsatisfactory reading for an enigmatic mint name. Coins from this mint, located on the greater Khabur River in the Diyar Rabia district of al-Jazira, have recently been reattributed to Risha. This town was known in classical times as Resaina, while in Syriac it was Resh 'Ayna, and in Arabic Ras al-'Ayn - literally "springhead".



- 26 *temp.* 'Abd al-Malik, Silver Dirham, Hirat 80h, *obv* mint name in Pahlawi in fourth line, 2.77g (variety unrecorded by Klat). *Oxidised surfaces, about extremely fine and rare.* £10,000-12,000

This is the third mint in Khurasan which inscribed its mint name in both Arabic and in Pahlawi on its reform-style Umayyad Dirhams, the others being Marw and Marw al-Rud. Presumably inscribing the mint in both languages was a service to its Pahlawi-reading public, but the practice was soon abandoned.



- 27 *temp.* 'Abd al-Malik, Silver Dirham, Dasht-i Maysan 80h, 2.68g (Klat 319, 9 refs). *Oxidised surfaces, about extremely fine and rare.* £4,000-5,000

Dasht-i Maysan is a flat and desolate piece of oil-rich land adjoining the Shatt al-Arab on the border of Iran and southern Iraq.



28 *temp.* 'Abd al-Malik, Silver Dirham, Nahr Tirâ 80h, 2.83g (Klat 638, 10 refs). *Cleaned, good very fine and rare.* £4,000-5,000

Nahr Tirâ is a town in Khuzistan in south-western Iran.



29 *temp.* 'Abd al-Malik, Silver Dirham, Ramhurmuz 81h, 2.60g (Klat 381, 1 ref). *About very fine and extremely rare.* £6,000-8,000

Ramhurmuz is another town in the province of Khuzistan.



30 † *temp.* 'Abd al-Malik, Silver Dirham, Tawwaj 82h, 2.91g (Klat 199, the only date recorded, 2 refs). *Extremely fine and extremely rare.* £15,000-20,000

Tawwaj was an important commercial town on the trade route between Shiraz and the port of Jannaba in the province of Fars. It is known for only a single Umayyad reform-style Dirham, although it is likely that additional dates will be discovered.



- 31 † *temp. al-Walid*, Silver Dirham, al-Niq 89h, 2.90g (Klat 649, 5 refs). *Extremely fine and very rare.* £10,000-12,000

This is another enigmatic Umayyad mint name. The only known date for "al-Niq", 89h, identifies it as one of the northern campaign mints and its Arabic spelling almost certainly conceals its real name. In his *Checklist Album* plausibly suggests that it may well be the district of Alvank - Albania in the Caucasus, and obviously not the modern Albania in south-eastern Europe.



- 32 *temp. al-Walid (86-96h)*, Silver Dirham, Risha (= Ras al-'Ayn) 90h, 2.65g (Klat 392, 2 refs). *Good very fine and extremely rare* £15,000-20,000

The name Risha was originally read as "Ralsa", which was an unsatisfactory reading for an enigmatic mint name. Coins from this mint, located on the greater Khabur River in the Diyar Rabia district of al-Jazira, have recently been reattributed to Risha. This town was known in classical times as Resaina, while in Syriac it was Resh 'Ayna, and in Arabic Ras al-'Ayn - literally "springhead".



- 33 *temp. al-Walid*, Silver Dirham, Harran 91h, 2.79g (date for mint unrecorded by Klat). *Very fine and extremely rare.* £15,000-20,000

Harran was located in the Diyar Mudar district of al-Jazira, traditionally known to have been the birthplace of the Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham). Umayyad Dirhams from this mint are notably rare and this date is previously unknown. Harran is best known for its Dirhams of 87h and 89h, which were probably used to pay the troops in the northern campaign.



- 34 *temp. al-Walid*, Silver Dirham, Dard 93h, 2.66g (Klat 303, 3 refs). *Very fine and very rare.* £5,000-6,000

It has been commonly thought that Dard is merely an abbreviation of the mint name Darabjird, but it is more likely that it was a separate but as yet unidentified location. A coin of this mint has also been recorded from the year 79h.



- 35 *temp. al-Walid*, Silver Dirham, al-Jazira 95h, 2.89g (Klat 220, 5 refs). *Extremely fine and very rare.* £5,000-6,000

al-Jazira is the provincial name usually considered to be the town of Jazirat ibn 'Umar in the Diyar Rabia district.



- 36 *temp. al-Walid/Sulayman*, Silver Dirham, Bizamqubadh 96h, 2.65g (date for mint unrecorded by Klat). *Very fine and extremely rare.* £6,000-8,000

This is the latest recorded date for the mint of Bizamqubadh.

Bizamqubadh was apparently the original name of the town of Arrijan, the principal town of the third *khurra* in the province of Fars.



- 37 *temp. Sulayman (96-99h)*, Silver Dirham, Khusraw Shadh Hurmuz 97h, 2.83g (Klat 284, 8 refs). *Very fine and very rare.* £8,000-10,000

This mint is only known for 97h. It was a district to the east of the Tigris River and it is one of those sporadic Iraqi mints for which there is no explanation.



- 38 *temp. Sulayman*, Silver Dirham, Maysan 97h, 2.85g (Klat 635, 5 refs). *Good very fine and rare.* £5,000-6,000

Maysan was another subdistrict located in southern Iraq near al-Basra. See also Dasht-i Maysan for an adjoining subdistrict where coins were also struck.



- 39 *temp. 'Umar II b. 'Abd al-'Aziz (99-101h)*, Silver Dirham, Ifriqiya 100h, 3.21g (date for mint unrecorded by Klat). *Mounted and gilt, about extremely fine and very rare* £8,000-10,000

This handsome coin fills in a gap in the important Dirham series from the mint of Ifriqiya. It was clearly a valued object because of its gilding and careful preservation.





- 41 *temp.* 'Umar II/Yazid II, Silver Dirham, Sijistan 101h, 2.84g (Klat 493, 3 refs). *Good very fine and very rare.* £6,000-8,000

Sijistan is the name of the great province of south-western Afghanistan where its coinage was probably struck in the capital town Zaranj.



- 42 *temp.* Hisham (105-125h), Silver Dirham, Ifriqiya 107h, 2.85g (Klat 94, 2 refs). *Very fine and very rare.* £8,000-10,000

This is yet another rare Dirham from the mint of Ifriqiya.



- 43 *temp.* Hisham, Silver Dirham, al-Bab 117h, 2.79g (Klat 144, 2 refs). *About extremely fine and very rare.* £5,000-6,000

al-Bab, meaning "the gate", today's Derbend, was located at one of the pinch-points for trade between the Caucasus and the north into the lands south of the mountains. Presumably traders wishing to do business in the Dar al-Islam would have their metal struck into coin at this mint so that it could be used wherever they travelled.



- 44 *temp.* Marwan II (127-132h), Silver Dirham, Sijistan 128h, 2.62g (Klat 446, 1 ref). *Very fine and extremely rare.* £8,000-10,000

Despite the growing Abbasid revolution in the eastern Islamic lands, it appears from this coin and the next that Sijistan remained loyal to the Umayyad house.



- 45 *temp.* Marwan II, Silver Dirham, Sijistan 129h, 2.90g (Klat 447 but annulets as 446). *Good very fine and very rare.* £6,000-8,000



- 46 *temp.* Marwan II, Silver Dirham, Dimashq 130h, 2.46g (Klat 474, 3 refs). *Very fine and very rare.* £8,000-10,000

When Marwan II moved his seat of government northwards to his old gubernatorial territories in the Jazira the mint of Damascus lost much of its importance and its coinage becomes much rarer than before. 130h is the rarest date in the entire Damascus series, and 132h, the next coin, struck in the last year of the Umayyad caliphate is also rarely encountered.



- 47 *temp.* Marwan II, Silver Dirham, Dimashq 132h, 2.83g (Klat 376a, 5 refs). *Very fine and very rare.* £4,000-5,000

ABBASID REVOLUTION



- 48 *temp.* 'Abd Allah b. Mu'awiya (127-129h), Silver Dirham, Darabjird 129h, 2.76g (Klat 302, 2 refs).
Cleaned, about very fine and very rare. £5,000-6,000

The history of the various revolutionary movements at the end of the Umayyad period is confusing. The goal of the Shi'a revolutions of 'Abd Allah bin Mu'awiya and the Abbasids was apparently the replacement of the Umayyad caliphate with a caliphate of the Prophet's kin, in which the caliph would be endowed with both religious and temporal functions. The Shi'a insisted that only a Muslim who had kinship with the Prophet was entitled to this office, although the exact nature of this kinship varied with the whims of demagogues and the fickleness of the populace. For 'Abd Allah bin Mu'awiya and his followers it meant being descended from the Prophet's paternal uncle Abu Talib, while for the Abbasids it meant being descended from another paternal uncle, al-'Abbas. To add to the difficulty in identifying their coins, 'Abd Allah and his son al-Hasan used the slogan "love for (the Prophet's) kin", and the 'Abbasid partisans later placed the same words on their own coinage.



- 49 *temp.* 'Abd Allah b. Mu'awiya, Silver Dirham, Jayy 130h, 2.91g (Klat 271, 4 refs). Cleaned, extremely fine and very rare. £4,000-5,000

ABBASID

ABBASID GOLD DINARS



50 † *temp. al-Saffah (132-137h), Gold Dinar, without mint name 132h, 4.24g (Bernardi 51). Scratched in the obverse field, spade mark in the reverse field, otherwise very fine and very rare. £8,000-10,000*

The Abbasid revolution was displayed in the coinage by substituting the words of Qur'an surah 112 with the second phrase of the *kalima*, *Muhammad rasul Allah* in the reverse field on both their Dinars and Dirhams. In this way the Abbasids emphasised their kinship with the messenger of God, Muhammad.



- 51 † *temp. al-Saffah*, Gold Dinar, without mint name 132h, 4.21g (Bernardi 51). *Extremely fine and rare.* £10,000-12,000

There are two distinct styles of calligraphy in the dies that struck the Dinar coinage of al-Saffah. The first (see previous lot) is somewhat cruder and less refined than the second. This coin, with its elegance and precision, may have originated at the caliphal court, while the other may have served the needs of rich merchants and the military.



- 52 † **Harun al-Rashid (170-193h)**, Gold Dinar, without mint name 171h, *rev field: Muhammad rasul Allah/ mimma amira bihi 'Abd Allah/Harun Amir al-Mu'minin*, 3.08g (Bernardi 58b; Album 218.1). *Clipped, as normally found, some scratches in lower reverse field, but extremely fine and rare, especially in this condition.* £6,000-8,000

When the Caliph Harun al-Rashid seized power from his brother al-Hadi in 170h, he made the change abundantly clear on both his Dirhams and Dinars by including his caliphal name, *Harun*, prominently in the reverse legends.



- 53 **al-Ma'mun (104-218h)/Tahir**, Gold Dinar, no mint name 198h, *rev* inner margin: *mimma amira bihi 'Abd Allah 'Abd Allah amir al-mu'minin* ("among those things ordered by the servant of God 'Abd Allah (al-Ma'mun), Commander of the Faithful"), field fourth line: *Tahir*, 4.18g (Bernardi 87, 4 refs; Album 222.6T). *Slightly clipped, good very fine and rare.* £6,000-8,000

Tahir bin al-Husayn was the general in command of the caliphal troops which invested Madinat al-Salam in the closing year of al-Amin's reign. This coin was presumably struck in the city's mint after the defeat or death of al-Amin in 198h. It should be noted that Tahir does not give al-Ma'mun his caliphal name, but only his personal name, 'Abd Allah, in the inner marginal legend on the reverse of this Dinar. Tahir was the founder of the Tahirid dynasty of semi-independent governors of Central Asia and this coin provides evidence of his lukewarm loyalty to the Abbasid dynasty.



- 54 **al-Mu'tasim (218-227h)**, Gold Dinar, Dimashq 225h, 4.08g (Bernardi 151 Ge, 3 refs). *Very fine and rare.* £2,500-3,000

The reign of al-Mu'tasim introduced the use of standard legends on both the gold and silver coinage, the only difference being the name of the denomination - Dinar or Dirham. Also, as in this case, all Dinars bore mint names.



- 55 **al-Mutawakkil (232-247h)**, Gold Donative Dinar, Surra man ra'a 239h, 4.29g (Bernardi 157 Je, but unrecorded date for type). *Crimped, good very fine and very rare.* £4,000-5,000

It is recorded that the Caliph al-Mu'tasim left Baghdad in 220h in search of a site for a new capital which would be free from the factional divisions that had plagued the city. He decided on Samarra, which he gave the official name of Surra man ra'a ("he who sees it is delighted"). Al-Wathiq continued to use it as his residence and, with the reign of al-Mutawakkil, the city was enlarged and embellished. It was under al-Mutawakkil that the first special donative coinages were introduced, and they played a role in the enhanced prosperity of Surra man ra'a. This coin is one of a series struck on broad ceremonial-sized flans which would have been distributed to the caliph's favourites, or perhaps sold to richer members of the public for use as ornaments.



- 56 † **al-Mutawakkil**, Gold Dinar, Arminiya 246h, 4.21g (Bernardi 158 Kb, 2 refs). *Some scratches in the fields, otherwise very fine and very rare.* £8,000-10,000

Arminiya was the name of the province of Armenia in which this coin was struck. A Dinar of al-Mutawakkil of the same type is also recorded from Dabil, the capital of Armenia. Under these circumstances the town in which this coin was struck cannot be determined. In any case, it is very rare. Bernardi records one example from 243h, two from 246h and one from 247h.



57 **al-Muntasir (247-248h)**, Gold Dinar, al-Kufa 248h, 4.20g (not listed in Bernardi). *Light scratches in obverse field, otherwise extremely fine and completely unpublished.* £70,000-80,000

Coinage of al-Muntasir is among the rarest in the Abbasid series. He joined in the conspiracy to murder his father, al-Mutawakkil, and succeeded to the throne at the end of the year 247h, when he was twenty-five years old, but reigned for only six months before dying a natural death. His coinage is known from the mint of Surra man ra'a (Samarra). Several years ago a coin was also recorded from Madinat al-Salam, and now this piece, a Dinar from al-Kufa, becomes the third mint for this ephemeral caliph. The three coins make good numismatic sense, as they are all clustered in the centre of the Abbasid territories. It is also recorded that al-Muntasir was favourably inclined towards the Shi'a, which may explain this coin from the mint of Kufa, a centre of Shi'a devotion.



- 58 † **al-Muhtadi (255-256h)**, Gold Dinar, San'a' 256h, 2.80g (Bernardi 167 El, 5 refs). *Good very fine and very rare.* £6,000-8,000

The coins of al-Muhtadi are, after those of al-Muntasir, the rarest in the Abbasid series. He came to the throne after the murder of his predecessor al-Mu'tazz and was himself murdered the following year. The coinage of San'a' at this time was struck to the weight standard of the Abbasid Dirham, c.2.9g. It thus constituted its own monetary system in the Yemen in the 3rd Century of the Hijra.



- 59 **al-Mu'tamid (256-279h)**, Gold Dinar, Fars 273h, 4.21g (Bernardi does not record this mint for al-Mu'tamid). *Good very fine and very rare.* £5,000-6,000

In 273h. the mint of Fars initially struck coinage in the name of the Saffarid 'Amr bin al-Layth and subsequently in that of the Caliph al-Mu'tamid, al-Nasir li-din Allah and Ahmad bin al-Muwaffaq billah.



60 **al-Mu'tamid**, Gold Dinar, Wasit 274h, 3.76g (Bernardi 184 Jm, 1 ref). *Good very fine and very rare.* £4,000-5,000

Although Dirhams from the mint of Wasit during this reign are well known, Dinars are exceptionally rare.



61 **al-Mu'tamid**, Gold Dinar, Hamadhan 277h, 4.28g (Bernardi does not record this mint for this type). *Good very fine, small edge weakness, very rare.* £4,000-5,000

This is a pure Abbasid coin from Hamadhan struck during the period when the town was ruled by the Dulafid princes Ahmad and later 'Umar bin 'Abd al-'Aziz.



- 62 **al-Mu'tadid (279-289h)**, Gold Dinar, Surra man ra'a 279h, 4.13g (Bernardi does not record a Dinar from this mint for al-Mu'tadid). *Extremely fine and very rare.* £8,000-10,000

The Caliph al-Mu'tadid returned the capital from Surra man ra'a to Madinat al-Salam in 279h. This would appear to be the last Dinar struck while it was still the caliphal residence.



- 63 † **al-Mu'tadid**, Gold Medallion Dinar, Barda'a 286h, 4.13g (Bernardi does not record a Dinar from this mint for al-Mu'tadid). *Extremely fine and very rare.* £25,000-30,000

This remarkable and very beautiful coin was struck in the Azeri city of Barda'a, probably while al-Mu'tadid was on military campaign in the region. Its broad flan and especially elegant legends make it clear that it was intended for presentation to members of the caliph's court and army.



64 **al-Mu'tadid**, Gold Dinar, Wasit 287h, 2.12g (Bernardi does not record a Dinar from this mint for al-Mu'tadid). *Good very fine and very rare.* £5,000-6,000

As in the reign of al-Mu'tamid, Dirhams continued to be struck at the mint of Wasit in that of al-Mu'tadid, but Dinars are rarely encountered.



65 **al-Muktafi (289-295h)**, Gold Dinar, Ras al-'Ayn 289h, 3.94g (Bernardi 226 Hl, 1 ref). *Extremely fine and very rare.* £6,000-8,000



66 **al-Muktafi**, Gold Dinar, Wasit 291h, 4.00g (Bernardi 228 Jm, 2 refs). *About extremely fine and very rare.* £3,000-4,000



- 67 **al-Muktafi**, Gold Dinar, Amid 292h, 4.26g (Bernardi 226 Ha, 1 ref). *Extremely fine and very rare.* £5,000-6,000

Amid, today's city of Diyarbakir in south-eastern Turkey, was taken from the Byzantines in 286h. While its silver coinage is rare, the gold coinage is known for only two years, 292h and 293h.



- 68 **al-Muktafi**, Gold Dinar, Mah al-Kufa 293h, 4.62g (Bernardi 226 Mr, 2 refs). *About extremely fine and very rare.* £4,000-5,000



- 69 **al-Muktafi**, Gold Dinar, Wasit 293h, 4.03g (Bernardi 226 Jm, 1 ref). *Extremely fine and very rare.* £4,000-5,000



- 70 **al-Muqtadir (295-320h)**, Gold Dinar, Antakiya 299h, without name of heir, 4.16g (unrecorded see Bernardi 242 Ga). *Extremely fine and extremely rare.* £12,000-15,000

It is difficult to explain the existence of this coin because it lacks the name of the caliph's heir, Abu'l-Abbasi in the obverse field. It was customary to include the heir's name on virtually all coinage under caliphal control after the year 297h. As will be seen the name of Abu'l-Abbasi is included in the legends of all coins from this mint from 301h onwards.



- 71 † **al-Muqtadir**, Gold Dinar, al-Rahba 302h, 3.71g (Bernardi does not record a Dinar from this mint for al-Muqtadir). *Good extremely fine and extremely rare.* £12,000-15,000

al-Rahba was a town in Syria to the west of Qarqisiya on a canal which paralleled the Euphrates River. It only appears occasionally in the coinage record.



- 72 **al-Muqtadir**, Gold Dinar, Halab 304h, 3.54g (Bernardi 242 Gb, 1 ref). *Good very fine and very rare.* £4,000-5,000

Bernardi records Dinars struck at the mint of Halab (Aleppo) in the years 297h, 298h, 304h and 311h.



- 73 † **al-Muqtadir**, Gold Dinar, Antakiya 305h, 3.83g (Bernardi 242 Ga, 1 ref). *Extremely fine and extremely rare.* £12,000-15,000

Bernardi records Dinars struck at the mint of Antakiya in the years 301h, 304h, 305h, 306h, and 308h.



- 74 **al-Muqtadir**, Gold Dinar, al-Masisa 305h, 3.11g (Bernardi 242 Fd, but unrecorded date). *Good very fine and extremely rare.* £10,000-12,000

al-Masisa was located south of the Taurus Mountains on the frontier between the Byzantine Empire and the Abbasid Caliphate. Bernardi records Dinars from this mint dated 296h and 299h.



- 75 † **al-Muqtadir**, Gold Dinar, Tabariya 308h, 4.40g (Bernardi does not record a Dinar from this mint for al-Muqtadir). *Extremely fine and extremely rare.* £12,000-15,000

Tabariya/Tiberius, on the shores of the Sea of Galilee in Palestine, was a provincial capital under the Umayyads and later a mint town used by the Abbasids, Ikshidids, Fatimids and the Qaramita. Bernardi records Dinars from this mint dated 311h, 314h and 319h.



- 76 **al-Muqtadir**, Gold Dinar, Isbahan 309h, 3.05g (Bernardi does not record this date for this mint). *Good very fine and very rare.* £10,000-12,000

Isbahan (Isfahan) is an extremely rare Abbasid gold mint. Bernardi recorded a single example for al-Muqtadir dated 298h.



- 77 **al-Muqtadir**, Gold Dinar, Nisibin 311h, 4.49g (Bernardi does not record this date for this mint). *About extremely fine and very rare.* £6,000-8,000

Bernardi recorded a single example of a Dinar struck in Nisibin (Nusaybin) for al-Muqtadir dated 313h.



- 78 † **al-Muqtadir**, Gold Dinar, Barda'a 315 h, 3.92g (Bernardi 242 Kf, 4 refs). *A little edge weakness, otherwise good very fine and very rare.* £12,000-15,000

Barda'a was at this time the principal town of Azerbaijan. Bernardi records four examples dated 315h, four of 318h and six of 319h. The other coins from Azerbaijan were from the mints of Ardabil, Arminiya, Adharbayjan, Urmiya and Maragha.



- 79 **al-Muqtadir**, Gold Dinar, 'Aththar 317h, 2.56g (Bernardi does not record this date for this mint). *Very fine and very rare.* £8,000-10,000

'Aththar was a port in the Asir region of today's Saudi Arabia. It was often under the rule of Sunni emirs who displayed their allegiance to the Abbasid caliphate in their coinage. Bernardi recorded a single example of a Dinar of this type dated 314h.



- 80 † **al-Muqtadir**, Gold Dinar, 'Aththar 319h, 2.76g (Bernardi 249 Eo, 1 ref). *Extremely fine and very rare.* £10,000-12,000



- 81 † **Amirs of the Asir in the name al-Muti' lillah (334-363h),** Gold Dinar, Baysh 339h, 2.72g (Album Sylloge of Islamic Coins in the Ashmolean 10, no.18, 1 example of this date) *Good very fine and rare.* £6,000-8,000

The pale gold for this coinage was probably alluvial in origin, washed down from the mountains of the Asir.



- 82 † **Amirs of 'Aththar in the name of al-Ta'i' lillah (363-381h),** Gold Dinar, 'Aththar 371h, 2.79g. *Good very fine and extremely rare.* £10,000-12,000

This appears to be an unrecorded Dinar omitting the name of a local amir and giving that of only the Caliph al-Ta'i'. It may have been struck during a local interregnum.



- 83 **Abbasid, al-Mustazhir (487-512h),** Gold Dinar, Madinat al-Salam 493h, 2.14g (Jafar Saljuq Baghdad A M.S. 493). *Extremely fine and very rare.* £2,500-3,000

This is a purely Abbasid coin struck during the period when the caliphs had to recognise the temporal overlordship of the Great Saljuq sultans. In the year 493h, during the contest between the rival Great Saljuq claimants, Barkiyaruq and Muhammad, the caliph struck coins in the names of both these men, but when the confusion became too great he issued them only in his own name and that of his heir, abu-Mansur. The superb quality of this Dinar shows that peculiar care was taken in its striking.



- 84 † **al-Musta'sim (640-656h)**, Gold Dinar, Madinat al-Salam 656h, 8.37g. *Unevenly struck but with a clear date, extremely fine and extremely rare.* £30,000-35,000

This is a very rare example of the last Abbasid coinage struck in Madinat al-Salam. As the Mongol army made its way through Iran and advanced on Baghdad Abbasid defences crumbled. The Mongol ruler, Hulagu, laid siege to Baghdad and the Abbasids were forced to surrender the city on 4th Safar 656h / 10th February 1258 CE. Baghdad was then sacked by Hulagu's troops, and ten days after its capture Hulagu issued the order that the caliph al-Musta'sim was to be executed. The execution was carried out by having him wrapped up in a rug and trampled to death by elephants, presumably so as to abide by the Mongol tradition of avoiding spilling royal blood. The murder of al-Musta'sim lowered the curtain forever on Abbasid rule in Iraq after nearly five and a half centuries.

ABBASID SILVER



- 85 **temp. al-Saffah (132-137h)**, Silver Dirham, Dimashq 132h, 2.83g (Klat 376b; Lowick *Abbasid* 587). *Cleaned, extremely fine and very rare.* £4,000-5,000

This is an example of the first Abbasid coinage struck in Damascus. 'Abd Allah bin 'Ali al-Sajad, who was the uncle of both al-Saffah and his brother and successor, al-Mansur, had commanded the Abbasid forces at the battle of the Greater Zab where the last Umayyad ruler, Marwan II, was defeated. He then raced westwards to take control of Syria and Palestine, and in the process exterminated any male members of the Umayyad family who were unfortunate enough to fall into his hands. In the end only one Umayyad prince, 'Abd al-Rahman, the grandson of Hisham bin 'Abd al-Malik, escaped to re-establish his dynasty in Spain. 'Abd Allah served as governor of Syria until the death of al-Saffah in 136h / 754 CE when he made an unsuccessful attempt to seize the caliphate for himself. From the evidence of the rare Dirhams he issued in Damascus, it is clear that he took over the Umayyad mint intact and, apart from replacing "The Unity" with the second statement of the *kalima*, preserved its traditional style of Kufic script.

A COMPLETE DATE RUN OF THE DIRHAMS FROM THE MINT OF AL-YAMAMA



- 86 † Abbasid Silver Dirhams (6), al-Yamama, *temp.* al-Mahdi, 165h, 2.90g (Lowick 571), 166h, 2.96g (Lowick 573), 167h, 2.85g (Lowick 578h), 168h, 2.54g (Lowick 579; *temp.* al-Mahdi/al-Hadi, 169h, 2.52g (Lowick 169h); *temp.* al-Hadi, 170h, 2.81g (Lowick 586). *Very fine or better.* (6) £12,000-15,000

The earliest mint place to be established in the Arabian peninsula was al-Yamama, the district around today's Saudi Arabian capital, al-Riyadh. The first coin was dated 165h and bears the name of its principal town *Hajar* in the reverse field. The second, also struck by al-Mahdi, bears the name 'Abd Allah bin Sa'id, and the third, the latest dated issue of 170h gives no more than the name of the ephemeral caliph al-Hadi. After this date the mint of al-Yamama is believed to have ceased operation, but the reason for this is unclear. A Dirham mint may have been opened there in order to extract taxes from the owners of the rich date groves which grew in the oases of the region.



- 87 † al-Radi (322-329h), Silver Medallion Dirham, Madinat al-Salam 325h, 14.45g. *Extremely fine and very rare.* £100,000-120,000

This magnificent coin is unusual in several respects. It mixes legends normally found on the reverse with the abbreviated *kalima* usually found on the obverse, and includes a beautiful floral device. This was probably taken from the plasterwork designs used in decorating the rooms of the caliphal palaces in Madinat al-Salam and Surra man ra'a (Samarra). It is one of the masterpieces of all Islamic numismatics.

GOLD AND SILVER COINS STRUCK IN THE HOLY CITY OF MAKKA

The earliest known Islamic coin from the mint of Makka was struck in 201h, during the reign of al-Ma'mun bearing the name of his vizier al-Fadl bin Sahl Dhu'l-Riyasatayn. A second Dirham is known from the year 203h. The coinage record resumes with a gold Dinar of al-Wathiq dated 227h, and from then on it appears that the Makka mint operated sporadically over the years. Its Dinars and Dirhams have become very popular among collectors of Islamic coins, and the group offered here is the largest selection ever to have appeared at auction.

ABBASID



- 88 † al-Wathiq (227-232h), Gold Dinar, Makka 227h, 3.76g (unrecorded by either Bernardi or Album, the earliest dinar from this mint). *Crudely struck with edge crack, otherwise good fine and extremely rare.*
£20,000-25,000



- 89 al-Mutawakkil (232-247h), Gold Dinar, Makka 234h, 4.12g (Bernardi 155 Ef, 2 refs). *Very fine and very rare.*
£20,000-25,000



- 90 † al-Mutawakkil, Silver Dirham Error, Makka 268 (for 238h), error in writing decade of date, 5.12g, an exceptionally heavy Dirham for this mint (unrecorded date for mint). *Good very fine and extremely rare.* £6,000-8,000



- 91 † al-Musta'in (248-251h), Gold Dinar, Makka 248h, 3.99g (Bernardi 160 Ef, 2 refs). *Extremely fine and very rare.* £50,000-60,000



- 92 † al-Musta'in, Gold Dinar, Makka 249h, 4.14g (Bernardi 161 Ef, 1 ref). *Weakly struck, very fine and very rare.* £40,000-50,000



93 † **al-Mu'tazz (252-255h)**, Gold Dinar, Makka 252h, 4.11g, the gold for the famous Dinar of the caliph al-Mu'tazz dated 252h, which so eloquently symbolises the importance of this sacred spot, came from the covering of the *Makam Ibrahim*. (Bernardi 162 Ef, 2 refs). *Very fine and extremely rare.* £120,000-150,000

In 160h / 777 CE the *Makam Ibrahim*, the stone behind which the Prophet Muhammad prayed when he performed the circumambulation of the Holy Ka'ba, and which bears the footprints of the Prophet Ibrahim impressed into its surface at the time that he was building the Holy House, was brought to the abode of al-Mahdi in Makka when he performed the pilgrimage. In the next year, when the *Makam* was raised carelessly by one of its keepers, it fell down and cracked; it was repaired on the order of al-Mahdi and its upper and lower parts were braced with gold. Al-Mutawakkil in 241h / 655-656 CE improved the pedestal of the *Makam*, embellished the *Makam* itself with gold and ordered the building of a cupola over the *makam* (cf al-Sinjari, *Mana'ih al-karam bi-akhbar Makka wa'l Haram*, ms. Leiden fol. 120b). In 252h / 866 CE the *Makam* was stripped of its gold by the Governor of Makka Ja'far bin al-Fadl; the gold was then melted down for minting Dinars, which he spent in the struggle against the rebel Isma'il bin Yusuf bin Ibrahim (see al-Sinjari *op.cit.* fols. 120a ult. - 120b; for Isma'il bin Yusuf see al-Fasi, *al-'Ikd al-thamin*, ed. Fu'ad Sayyid, Cairo 1383/1963, iii, 311, no 383). A thorough restoration of the *Makam* was carried out in 256h / 870 CE by the Governor 'Ali bin al-Hasan al-Hashimi (see al-Fasi *op. cit.* vi, 151, no. 2050).

The gold for the famous Dinar of the caliph al-Mu'tazz dated 252h, which so eloquently symbolises the importance of this sacred spot, came from the covering of the *Makam Ibrahim*.

(The information for this note is based on the *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 2nd edition).



- 94 al-Mu'tazz, Silver Dirham, Makka 252h, legends as on the Dinar above, save for the denomination Dirham rather than Dinar, 2.98g (unrecorded date for mint). *Very fine and extremely rare.* £7,000-8,000



- 95 † al-Mu'tadid (279-289h), Gold Dinar, Makka 282h, 3.99g (Bernardi 211 Ef, 1 ref). *Extremely fine and very rare.* £35,000-40,000



96 † al-Mu'tadid, Gold Dinar, Makka 283h, 4.12g (Bernardi 211 Ef, 1 ref). *Good extremely fine and very rare.* £35,000-40,000



97 † al-Muktafi (289-295h), Gold Dinar, Makka 291h, 3.86g (Bernardi 216 Ef, 1 ref). *About extremely fine and very rare.* £25,000-30,000



98 al-Muktafi, Gold Dinar, Makka 292h, 2.59g (Bernardi 226 Ef, 3 refs). *Good very fine and very rare.* £25,000-30,000



99 † al-Muktafi, Silver Dirham, Makka 292h, 2.59g. *Good very fine and rare.* £4,000-5,000



100 † al-Muktafi, Silver Dirham, Makka 294h, 2.88g. *Good very fine.* £4,000-5,000



101 † al-Muqtadir (295-320h), Silver Dirham, Makka 297h, 3.10g. *About very fine and very rare.* £4,000-5,000



102 † al-Muqtadir, Silver Dirham, Makka 312h, 2.96g. *Good very fine and very rare.* £8,000-10,000



- 103 **Abu'l-Misk Kafur (355-357h)**, Gold Dinar, Makka 357h, *rev* field: *amira bihi al-Ustadh Kafur al-Ikhshidi Qa'im* ("among those things ordered by the master Kafur al-Ikhshidi, valid), 2.78g (Album 680.2; Bacharach *Islamic History Through Coins* no.211, MAG 357a, commentary on p.74, fig.3.8). *Pierced, extremely fine and extremely rare.* £250,000-350,000

Abu'l-Misk Kafur was bought as a slave from Nubia, where he had been prepared for sale to live his life as a eunuch. He was acquired by the founder of the Ikhshidid dynasty, Muhammad ibn Tughj, who quickly realised that he had made an exceptionally fortunate purchase in finding such an intelligent, well-balanced and diligent addition to his court. Kafur soon became Ibn Tughj's right-hand man in the administration of the state, the army and in family affairs. After his master's death in 334h, Kafur secured recognition of his son Abu'l-Qasim Unujur's investiture by the Abbasid Caliph al-Muti' the following year and that of his brother Abu'l-Hasan 'Ali in 349h. Throughout their childhood he had supervised their education, and he continued in both their governorships to exercise full and untrammelled control of the Ikhshidid state in Egypt and Syria. Upon the death of 'Ali, who left a young son, Abu'l-Fawaris Ahmad, to become titular leader of the state, Kafur applied for, and received, a patent of investiture from the Caliph for himself, which appears to have included the right of *sikka* (having coins struck in his name). After Kafur's death on 21 Jumada I 357h, Egypt was invaded by the Fatimid forces of al-Mu'izz, and the Ikhshidid state, whose centre had moved to Palestine, was extinguished in 359h. This coin is the only one known on which Kafur is named as ruler in his own right rather than modestly hiding his power behind the single letter of his name *kaf*.

This coin is nominally Abbasid because it acknowledges the spiritual overlordship of the Caliph al-Muti' lillah. However, it simultaneously distances itself from the caliphate by choosing a Qur'anic legend, Surah 17 verses 81-82, which was introduced by the Rassid Imam of the Yemen al-Hadi ilâ'l-Haqq Yahya on a coin of San'a' of 288h for its reverse margin: "Truth has come and falsehood has vanished, verily falsehood is a vanishing thing; we send down of the Qu'an that which is a healing and a mercy unto the true believers". The use of this verse rapidly spread to the coinages of the emirates in the Asir and Tihama, and when the governor of the Yemen chose to issue coins he did not use the standard design and legends of the Ikhshidid Dinars in Egypt and Palestine, but those of the Red Sea littoral.

The Holy City of Makka was, at the time of Kafur's death, under the control of forces loyal to him, but it was quickly taken over first by the Qaramita and then by the Fatimids. This coin provides important confirmation of Ikhshidid control of the Hijaz and of Kafur's full name and title al-Ustadh Kafur al-Ikhshidi. When the Fatimids conquered the Holy City they renounced the use of the Red Sea coinage type and replaced it with the style and legends found elsewhere on their own Dinars (see lot 105).

This Dinar is described by Stephen Album in his Checklist as "one of the classic rarities of Islamic gold coinage" (Album 680.2). This piece is one of only two known examples still in private hands, the other remaining with the owner of this piece. There are a further three examples known, all of which are in the National Collection in Doha.

Reverse Legend:





FATIMID



- 104 † **al-Mu'izz (341-365h)**, Gold Dinar, Bakka (= Makka) 363h, 2.78g (Nicol *Fatimids* 385, 1 ref). *Crude, about extremely fine and extremely rare.* £60,000-80,000

This coin and the next provide evidence of the Fatimid struggle against the Qaramita invaders of Syria and Palestine. Fatimid Dinars from Makka are confirmed in the name of al-Mu'izz in 363h, 364h and 365h, and in that of al-'Aziz only in 366h. Clearly this can be regarded as an effort by the Fatimids to safeguard the Holy City from a conquest by the heretical Qaramita.



- 105 † **al-'Aziz (365-386h)**, Gold Dinar, Makka 366h, 3.67g (Nicol 745, 1 ref). *Weakly struck, about extremely fine and extremely rare.* £60,000-80,000



106 **al-Mustansir (427-487h)**, Gold Dinar, Madinat Rasul Allah, month of Dhu'l-Hijja 450h, 3.30g (unrecorded by Nicol and only the second known example of this mint). *About extremely fine and very rare.* £350,000-400,000

It is possible that the Caliph al-Mustansir made the pilgrimage to Makka in the year 450h, as it occurred in the shortest and coolest month of that year. It is not obviously clear whether the mint name Madinat Rasul Allah refers to the Holy City of Makka, the Prophet's birthplace, or perhaps to al-Madina al-Munawwara, the Prophet's later home and place of burial. The general assumption is that it refers to Makka al-Mukarrama. One other Dinar from this mint is recorded in Nicol's *Fatimids* in the British Museum collection, no. 2091, dated 453h, but this unique unpublished coin precedes that one by three years. The cataloguer considers that it was a quasi-donative issue to be distributed to a select group of pilgrims who accompanied the caliph on his otherwise unrecorded journey.



107 † 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud (1344-1373h), Gold Pattern Guinea or One Riyal, Makka al-Mukarrima 1370h, 7.98g (Krause Mishler, *World Coins*, Pn1, this coin). *Proof uncirculated and unique.* £120,000-150,000

This is one of the world's rarest proof pattern coinages, known only from this example. However, it is likely that at least two examples were struck, one of which was sent by the Royal Mint in London to Saudi Arabia for royal approval, but if this is the case its whereabouts is unknown. It should be noted that although the denomination is described as a Guinea, the weight is exactly that of the gold Sovereign.

SPANISH Umayyad



108 † ‘Abd al-Rahman III (350-366h), Gold Dinar, al-Andalus 321h, 4.23g (Miles, *The Coinage of the Umayyads of Spain*, vol. II, p.250, no 201(a)). *Extremely fine and rare.* £3,000-4,000

The latest known Umayyad Dinar minted in al-Andalus was struck in 127h / 744-745 CE, during the reign of Marwan II ibn Muhammad. From then until 316h / 928 CE no gold was struck in the province, either by the Umayyad governors or their successors, the Umayyad rulers of Spain. All the silver coins struck there bore the mint name al-Andalus, which is rather surprising given the large number of Visigothic mints in operation in Spain, and the plentiful Umayyad and Abbasid mints in the eastern provinces. It was during the reign of ‘Abd al-Rahman III that the minting of silver was resumed and gold coins were struck for the first time for nearly two hundred years. He succeeded his grandfather, ‘Abd Allah, at the age of twenty-three, having been chosen as heir presumptive because of his leadership qualities. This was a wise choice, for his half century reign, from 300h to 350h / 912-961 CE, and that of his successor al-Hakam II, marked the high point of Muslim rule in Spain. ‘Abd al-Rahman III spent the early part of his reign suppressing local opposition, before turning his attention to the Fatimids of Ifriqiya, who were extending their acquisition of lands in the Maghrib and, he feared, spreading Shi’ite propaganda. As a retort to the pretensions of his Fatimid enemies, ‘Abd al-Rahman III proclaimed himself caliph, and he was the first Spanish Umayyad caliph to adopt the title *Amir al-Mu’minin* on (Commander of the Faithful) on his coins, with the caliphal name *al-Nasir li-din Allah* (Defender of God’s Religion). In the words of the historian Ibn ‘Idhari, “And in this year (316h) al-Nasir (‘Abd al-Rahman III) ordered the establishment of the mint within the city of Cordova for the striking of Dinars and Dirhams. He appointed to the office Ahmad ibn Musa...From this date the strikings in the mint were of pure gold and silver. Ahmad ibn Musa was rigorous in accuracy and care”.

NASRID OF GRANADA



109 † Muhammad IX b. Nasr (851-858h), Gold Dinar, Gharnata undated, 4.69g (Album 412). *Extremely fine and rare.* £3,000-4,000

The Nasrids were the builders of the great al-Hamra complex in Granada. This, one of the beautiful coins struck by the last Muslim rulers in Spain, contains the Nasrid motto *la ghalib illa Allah* - “No victory without God’s (help)”, and on the reverse the mint name Gharnata (Granada). Muhammad IX reigned between 821h and 856h, but his rule was interrupted three times. This coin can be attributed to his first period of rule, 821-830h.

AL-MURABITID



- 110 † 'Ali b. Yusuf (500-537h), Gold Dinar, Malaqa 501h, 4.93g (Hazard *Coinage of North Africa* 260). *Good very fine and very rare.* £3,000-4,000

'Ali bin Yusuf ruled both in Morocco and Spain. This coin from the second year of his reign was struck in Malaqa (Malaga). As this mint was active for only four years, its coins are notably rare. On the reverse is found the title of the Abbasid caliph without his regnal name, showing that the Murabitids were Sunni in their allegiance.

SA'ADIAN SHARIFS



- 111 † Abu'l-Mahalli (usurper 1021-1022h), known on his coinage as Abu'l-'Abbas Ahmad al-Mahdi, Gold Dinar, Marrakush 1021h, 4.56g (Album K573). *Weakly struck in parts, otherwise about extremely fine and very rare.* £5,000-6,000

"Abu Mahalli" claimed descent from the Prophet Muhammad's uncle al-'Abbas. He devoted his life to Allah, named himself the *Mahdi* (Messiah) and waged holy war to end the rule of the Sa'adian Sharifs. Abu'l Mahalli led his followers to confront the Sa'adian ruler, who put up no resistance. He took on all the trappings of royalty, won great popularity and took advantage of the available gold to strike beautiful coins with elegant Maghribi ornamentation in his own name. However, having assured his followers of his divine power, he was killed in battle by a single shot, and Marrakesh returned to Sa'adian rule.

FATIMID



- 112 † **al-Mahdi (297-322h)**, Gold Dinar, al-Muhammadiya 320h, 4.06g (Nicol 50). *Good very fine and rare.* £3,000-4,000

'Ubayd Allah al-Mahdi, the founder of the Fatimid caliphate, first ruled from Qayrawan in central Tunisia and then moved his seat to the port fortress of al-Mahdiya on the eastern coast. Late in his reign the mint name al-Muhammadiya appeared on his coinage which, for lack of an important city in North Africa bearing this name, may be considered to be an epithet concealing and complementing the site of its actual location.



- 113 **al-Zahir (411-427h)**, Gold Dinar, Zawila 415h, 4.12g (Nicol only records 414h for this mint). *Good very fine and very rare.* £20,000-25,000

Zawila is a market town outside the walls on the landward side of al-Mahdiya. Presumably this mint was established as a convenience for merchants.



- 114 † **al-Mustansir (427-487h)**, Gold Dinar, Barqa 448h, 4.16g (Nicol 1701, 2 refs). *Good extremely fine and very rare.* £12,000-15,000

When the Zirids completed their revolution in Tunisia by repudiating their allegiance to the Fatimids, the Caliph al-Mustansir flew into a rage and determined to destroy the Zirids. He sent a band of Bedouin to retake the country. It is likely that this coin, struck in Barqa not far from today's Benghazi in Libya, was struck to pay the invading army. 448h is the latest date recorded for this Cyrenaican mint.



- 115 † **al-Mustansir**, Gold Dinar, 'Aththar 474h, 4.23g (unrecorded by Nicol for this ruler). *Good very fine and extremely rare.* £10,000-12,000

This previously unrecorded Dinar from the Red Sea port of 'Aththar in the Tihama shows the continuation of Fatimid control in the south-western Arabian peninsula. This is the only known example of the coinage of al-Mustansir from this mint.



- 116 † **al-Amir (495-524h)**, Gold Dinar, Asqalan 509h, 4.10g (Nicol 2506, 3 refs). *About extremely fine and rare.* £6,000-8,000

al-Amir succeeded al-Must'ali in 495h and struck most of his coinage in Egypt. This rare Dinar comes from the Palestinian mint of Asqalan, south of Acre, which for a time was the chief Fatimid port in Palestine before its conquest by the Crusaders.



- 117 † **al-Muntazar (fictive caliph 524-526h)**, Gold Dinar, al-Iskandariya 525h, 4.67g (Nicol 2589). *Good very fine and very rare.* £5,000-6,000

al-Muntazir (the 'Expected') was the imaginary son of al-Amir, who died without issue, leaving a pregnant concubine whose child's birth was never recorded. This coin demonstrates the extreme importance that the Fatimids placed on direct descendants of the Isma'ili imams. The fictive baby was named as Tayyib, who lent his name to a branch of Isma'ili Islam.

AYYUBID

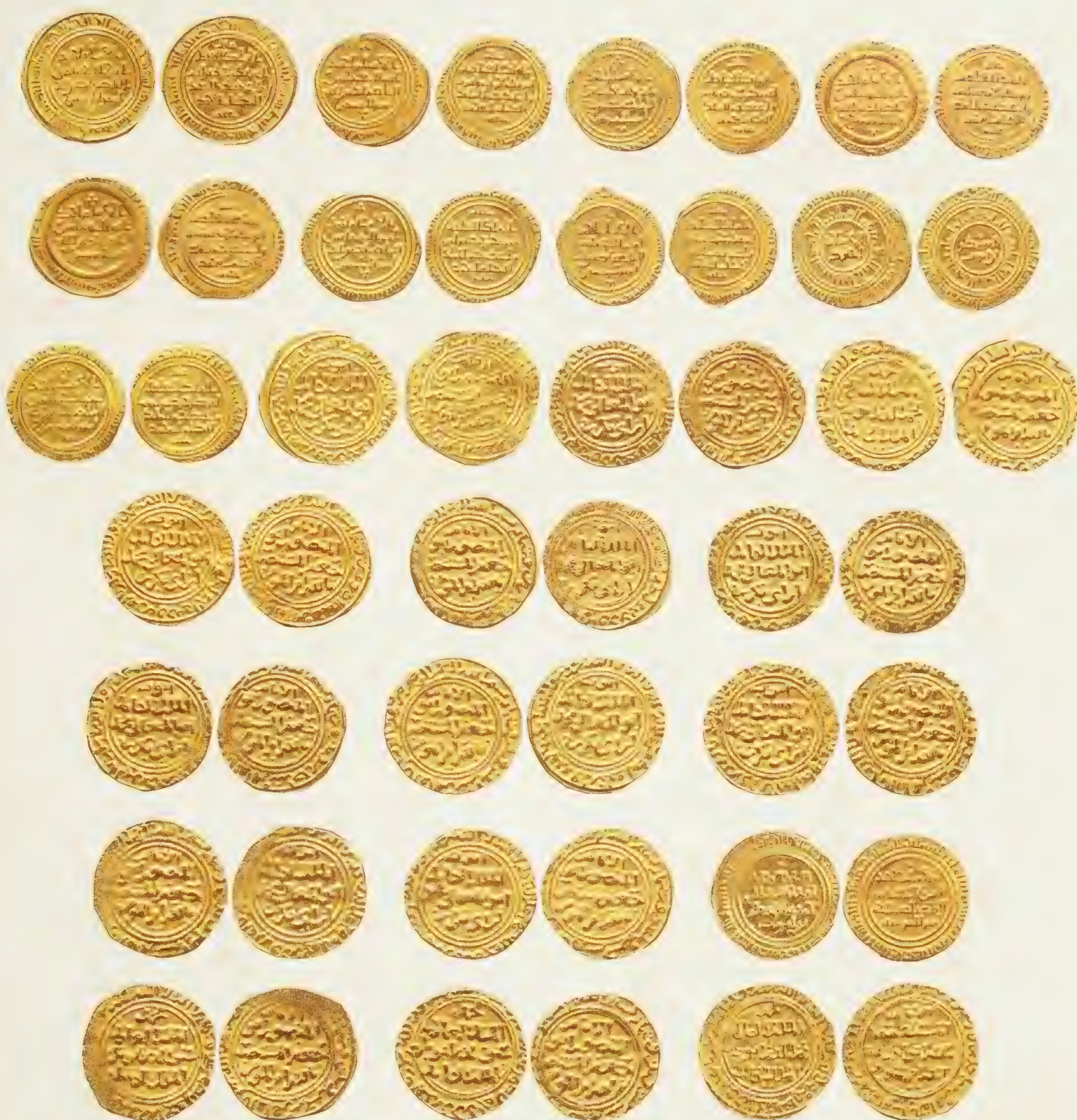


- 118 † **al-Nasir Yusuf (567-589h)**, Gold Dinar, Dimashq 583h, 4.26g (Balog *Coinage of the Ayyubids* 79; Album 785.3). *Good very fine and very rare.* £20,000-30,000

Al-Nasir Yusuf Salah al-din (known as Saladin in the west) was an outstanding military leader with a powerful army at his command. He declared *jihad* (holy war) against the Crusaders, and in 583h / 1187 CE, with the help of all the allies he could find, Saladin inflicted a disastrous defeat on them at the Horns of Hattin on the heights to the west of Tiberias. Exhausted and demoralised, the Christian forces surrendered Acre and much of the coast of Gaza. Finally Saladin achieved the prize he had set out to win, when he regained the city of *al-Quds* (Jerusalem) for the Muslims. This is the only gold coin that Saladin struck in Damascus and the only one on which he bore the additional title *Sultan al-Islam wa'l-Muslimin*. This rare coin was probably a donative issued to pay his victorious troops.

A COLLECTION OF AYYUBID GOLD DINARS





- 119 Ayyubid Gold Dinars (65), **Ayyubid/Zangid, al-Nasir Yusuf b. Ayyub (567-589h)/Mahmud b. Zangi (541-569h)**, al-Qahira 568h, 4.19g; **Ayyubid, al-Nasir Yusuf**, al-Qahira 572h 3.57g; 573h, 4.61; 578h, 4.87g; 579h, 4.90g; 580h, 4.73h; 581h, 3.16g; 582h, 4.69g; 583h, 5.71g; 584h, 4.38g; 585h, 4.97g; 586h (2), 3.94 and 5.23g; 587h, 4.45g; 588h, 4.34g; 57h?, 5.45g, *pierced and plugged*; al-Iskandariya 579h, 4.04g; 580h, 3.68g; 561h, 3.62g; 582h, 4.82g; 583h (2), 4.87 and 4.12g; 586h, 4.95g; **al-'Aziz 'Uthman (589-595h)**, al-Qahira 589h, 4.87g; 590h, 4.52g; 592h, 4.79g; 593h, 4.57g; al-Iskandariya 589h, 4.28g; 591h, 4.78g; 592h, 3.60g; 593h (2), 3.92 and 3.65g; 594h, 4.13g; **al-Mansur Muhammad (595-596h)**, al-Iskandariya 596h, *ex-mount*; **al-'Adil Abu Bakr I (596-615h)**, al-Qahira 596h, 4.95g; 597h, 4.47g; 599h, 3.76g; 608h, 4.28g; 616h, 4.32g; al-Iskandariya 596h, 4.39g; 598h, 4.50g; 599h, 4.52g; 600h, 4.78g; 602h, 3.83g; 604h (2), 4.62 and 4.23g; 609h, 4.96g; 611h, 3.68g; 613h, 5.76g (type B); 60h?, 4.86g; **al-Kamil Muhammad I (615-635h)**, al-Qahira 626h, 4.41g, *double struck*; 627h, 5.91g; 628h, 4.99g; 629h, 7.64g; 630h, 3.41g; 631h, 5.15g; 632h, 6.29g; 633h, 4.77g; 634h, 6.35g; 635h 6.87g; al-Iskandariya 618h, 5.58g; **al-'Adil Abu Bakr II (635-637h)**, al-Qahira 635h, 5.15g; 636h, 4.36h; **al-Salih Ayyub (637-647h)**, al-Qahira 641h; 4.31h, 646h?, 4.28g. Mostly very fine or better. (65) £25,000-30,000

BAHRI MAMLUK



- 120 † **al-Ashraf Musa (649-650h)**, Gold Dinar, al-Qahira 649h, 5.08g (Balog *Coinage of the Mamluks* 3). *Good very fine and very rare.* £6,000-8,000

All coins in the name of al-Ashraf Musâ II were actually struck by the Mamluk ruler Aybak who used the Ayyubid Musâ as a formal justification for his own *de facto* rule, while Musâ was really a son of al-Ma'sud Yusuf, the last Ayyubid ruler of the Yemen. The legends on this coin, however, make out that he was a son of al-Salih Ayyub, the last effective Ayyubid ruler of Egypt behind whose authority Aybak manipulated the ephemeral six-year-old puppet ruler, Musâ. While this coin is entirely Ayyubid in its form and legends, it is emphatically one of the first Mamluk issues.

RASULID



- 121 **al-Mansur 'Umar b. 'Ali**, Gold Dinar, Mina 636h, 6.15g (unrecorded in gold). *About extremely fine and the only one known.* £80,000-100,000

See the next lot for a note on this coin. It is the only gold Dinar known bearing the name al-Mansur 'Umar.



- 122 **al-Mansur 'Umar b. 'Ali (626-647h), Silver Dirham, Mina 636h, 2.07g (see Spink-Zürich Auction 31, lot 104). *About extremely fine and extremely rare, only the second specimen known.* £6,000-8,000**

This extremely rare coin type of al-Mansur 'Umar is known from two mints - Mina in 636h and Zabid in 637h. After its appearance in the catalogue of Spink-Zürich Auction 31 it excited a good deal of controversy over the reading of the mint name. The coin was read as *Mina*, but some critics chose to read it as *Mabyan* on the grounds that Mina had never been seen before in the coinage record, while Mabyan is a relatively well known mint for the Rasulids.

The appearance of a gold dinar with identical legends and mint name, but from different dies to the one in the Zürich sale reinforces the attribution to Mina for the following reasons. The Arabic can be read as *bi-mim-nun-alif*. This is clearly not the spelling of Mabyan which has an extra tooth before its terminal *nun* and there is sufficient space to inscribe this letter in the coin legend if it were intended to be there. Also one would expect the terminal *nun* to be the same as it is elsewhere on these coins' inscriptions. The town of Mina is spelled *mim-nun-alif* in the Encyclopaedia of Islam and not with a terminal *alif maksura* in southern Arabic, where the upright *alif* frequently takes the place of the stooping *alif*.

It has been said that Mina is an uninhabited locality for most of the year, except at the time of the Hajj. The historian al-Muqaddasi, however, speaks of fine houses built of teak and stone. Large stone buildings are still to be found in Mina, but these are usually empty and are only let during the pilgrimage to more wealthy pilgrims. This depopulation of the city has been a subject of discussion among legists, for some held that this enables Mina and Makka to be regarded as one city, a view which others reject. In any case, it is altogether likely that al-Mansur 'Umar, the newly independent Rasulid ruler, issued this gold Dinar and silver Dirham to be given as special donatives to pilgrims in 636h when he very likely went on the Hajj himself. When he returned to his seat of government in Zabid in the early months of 637h, a second issue of Dirhams from the mint of Zabid was struck probably to commemorate his safe return to his realm.



- 123 † **al-Mu'ayyad Da'ud (696-721h), Gold Dinar, 'Adan 718h, 4.34g (Album A1105). *Extremely fine and very rare.* £6,000-8,000**

While practically all the Rasulid coinage was struck in silver, there were occasional, very rare gold issues which copied the square in circle design introduced by the Muwahhids in North Africa. The principal difference is that, unlike the latter, the Rasulids included both the mint name and the date in their legends. They may have been used to facilitate trade with India.

QARAMITA OF BAHRAIN



- 124 † **Anonymous**, in the name of the Chief Sayyids, *al-sadat al-ru'asa*, Gold Dinar, Filastin 358h, 3.49g (Album A684). *Crimped, good fine and extremely rare.* £8,000-10,000

This extremely rare coin was issued by the Qaramita of Bahrain when they attacked the Ikhshidids in Palestine. It was issued when they temporarily displaced the Ikhshidid Ahmad bin 'Ali. The Chief Sayyids were obviously the tribal elders who led the Qaramita.



- 125 **abu-Mansur al-Mu'izzi (364-367h) (Alptekin)**, Gold Dinar, Dimashq 365h, 4.36g (Album 686.2). *Extremely fine and extremely rare.* £15,000-20,000

Alptekin al-Mu'izzi was a former Mamluk in the service of the Buwayhid ruler of Baghdad, Mu'izz al-dawla abu'l-Husayn Buwayh.



- 126 † **Anonymous**, in the name of the Chief Sayyids, *al-sadat al-ru'asa*, Gold Dinar, Filastin 368h, 4.36g. *Extremely fine and extremely rare.* £12,000-15,000

This Dinar marks the end of the Qaramita occupation of Palestine. After removing their influence from Makka the Fatimid forces of the Caliph al-'Aziz defeated the Qaramita in the first days of 368h, which prompted their departure for Bahrain. It is interesting to note that the Qaramita, although strong opponents of the Abbasid caliphate, always acknowledged their overlordship on their coinage, perhaps to give themselves legitimacy among the people for whom it was intended.

BURID



- 127 † **Abaq (534-549h)**, overlords Great Saljuq Sanjar and Iraq Saljuq Mas'ud together with the Abbasid Caliph al-Muqtafi, Gold Dinar, Dimashq 538h, 3.54g (Album A784). *Good very fine and very rare.* £12,000-15,000

Damascus was the westernmost extension of Saljuq power. The Burids were an ephemeral dynasty which lasted for no more than half a century. Surprisingly their coinage, while resembling that of their contemporaries the Fatimids, bore legends that were purely Sunni, acknowledging the Abbasid Caliph al-Muqtafi and their Great Saljuq overlords Sanjar and Iraq Saljuq Mas'ud.

RUM SALJUQ



- 128 † **Kaykawus II (first reign 643-647h, second reign 655-658h)**, Gold Presentation Dinar, without mint name, undated, 4.20g. *Good very fine and extremely rare.* £5,000-6,000

The names of the Sultan Kaykawus II appear on the obverse and that of the Abbasid Caliph al-Musta'sim on the reverse of this Dinar. It is an unpublished piece that is unusual in that it lacks both mint name and date, which suggests that it was intended for presentation to members of the Sultan's court. It is uncertain to which of the two reigns of Kaykawus the coin belongs as al-Musta'sim was on the throne during both.



- 129 **Mehmed II bin Murad (1444-1446h and 1451-1481h)**, Uniface Bronze Portrait Medal, c.1460, attributed to Pietro da Milano (fl. c.1432-1466), MAGNVS PRINCEPS ET MAGNVS AMIRAS SULTANVS DNS MEHOMET (Great Prince and Great *Amir*, Sultan Lord Mehomet), head to left in full profile, wearing a turban formed by neatly wound layers of cloth, along two folds of the turban are the letters PM, in the form of a monogram, above the turban is a patterned cap with a feather projecting from the rear, and rendered twice within the cap is the Arabic phrase *li-llah*; the bust is three-quarters facing, with a decorative, fur-collared robe or caftan, beneath which is a thin under-garment, *rev* plain, small, neat, suspension hole at the top, 92mm. *A beautifully toned and very fine contemporary cast with a reddish-brown patina, extremely rare.* £300,000-400,000

The *magnus princeps* bronze medal presents the earliest known portrait of Sultan Mehmed II. Made in the decade following the siege and capture of Constantinople in 1453, the medal is a significant historical document from the early period of Mehmed's sultanate and of the greatest rarity.

Prior to the discovery of the *magnus princeps*, the only reliable knowledge of Mehmed II's appearance rested on two portraits produced towards the end of his life: one on a medal executed by Constanzo da Ferrara in the mid- to late 1470s, which shows the Sultan as corpulent, somewhat wizened and well into middle age; the other on a painting by Gentile Bellini, its elderly and now frail image of the Sultan having been taken shortly before his death in 1481.

It is for his early conquests, and in particular the great victory at Constantinople and its foundation as capital city of the Ottoman Empire, that Mehmed II is today most widely remembered. Achieved at the extraordinarily young age of just twenty-one, it earned him considerable fame and the epithet 'Mehmed the Conqueror'. However, no evidence of the Sultan's physical appearance from this period was thought to have survived, and the mystery of how he looked as a young man has been one of the great imponderables of Ottoman scholarship.

It is against this background that the *magnus princeps* medal has emerged, showing the great Ottoman emperor somewhere in his mid-twenties, for which preparatory sketches are likely to have been made in the mid- to late 1450s.

The medal is a cast of very fine quality and the softly textured relief reveals skilful and sensitive technique. It has suffered little after more than five hundred years, with a surprising amount of detail present and only a small degree of wear over the higher points of its surface.



Mehmed's head and neck are shown in profile, while his torso has been gently rotated to a three-quarter view. He wears a wide-collared, embroidered garment that is fastened by four buttons. His caftan-type robe appears to enclose another garment, perhaps a dolman, consistent with the traditions of Ottoman royal attire. Bernard Lewis in his article on the *Diwani-Humayun* (Imperial Council) states that the practice of wearing a twisted turban (*burma dulbend*) when attending the *diwan* was introduced during the reign of Orhan, probably showing that it was for a public audience. It may have been during one or more of these that the artist was permitted to work on the portrait.

On the narrow layers of twisted cloth which hold in place a soft, patterned cap is written in cursive script the word *Allah* (or *li-llah*) which appears twice in the weave (fig. 1). The text translates as 'To God' or 'For God' and represents a foreshortening of the *kalima*, the statement of faith. It can be observed by rotating the medal until the first letter of MAGNVS is uppermost, at which point *li-llah* comes into alignment. By turning the medal once more until the first letter of MEHOMET is uppermost, the point is reached where the repeated phrase comes into alignment. The characterful modelling of Mehmed's portrait has almost certainly been based on sketches taken from life, and its rendition is the more remarkable given the medal's shallow relief. So compelling is the portrait that the preparatory drawings and the wax model for the medal are likely to have been executed by the same artist.



figure 1

The design and lettering of the *magnus princeps* bear some similarities to the medallic work of Pietro (di Martino) da Milano, a master sculptor and occasional medallist, who worked first in Ragusa, but moved subsequently to Italy, and then elsewhere in Europe. The attribution to da Milano is supported by the presence of the letters P M, which have been discreetly placed along two folds of Mehmed's turban, in the form of a

monogram, situated almost directly above his side-locks (fig. 2). It shows **P** lying on its back facing forward and downwards towards the Sultan's brow. This **P** was in turn joined to the letter **M** on its side facing backwards and upwards towards the back of the turban. The medallists of the Italian Renaissance usually signed their medals on the reverse but, in this exceptional and most remarkable case, since the medal had a blank reverse it would appear that Pietro cleverly but modestly took credit for his work where it would not interfere with the design, but would still identify it as his own achievement.

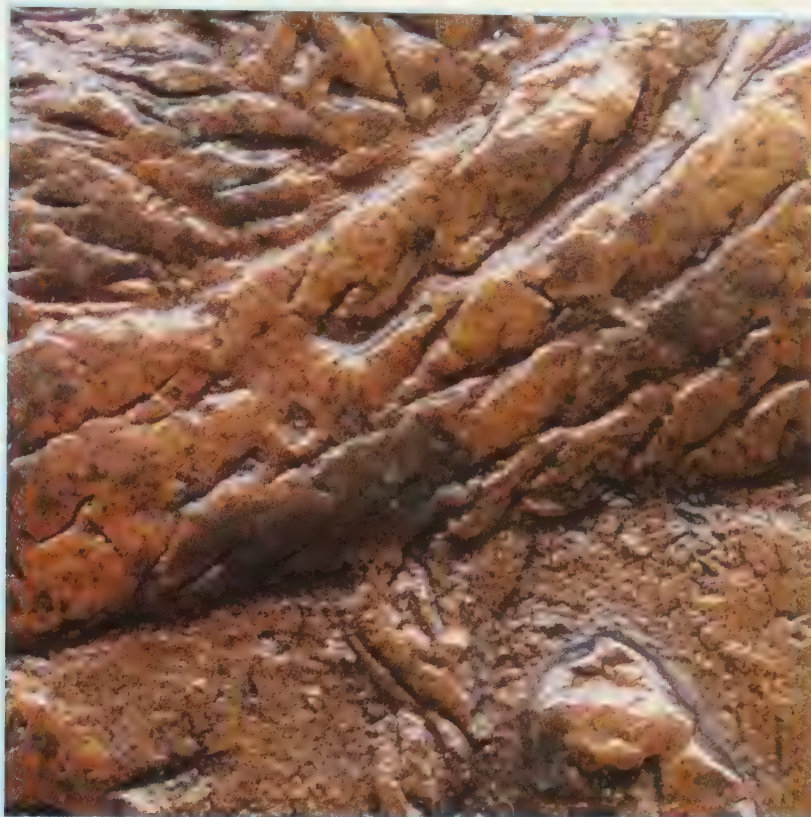


figure 2

The period of creation for the *magnus princeps*, around 1460, occurred many years before a commercial market for medallic images of the Sultan had fully developed. This would help to explain the rarity of the medal, intended as it seems for personal gratification rather than general distribution.

The circumstances in which the medal came to be made are not known, but Mehmed II's interest in the genre, and his desire to have portraits of himself, are well documented. Mehmed Fatih was a many-sided genius who never failed to appreciate the good qualities of his new subjects and was eager to learn from those of cultures different from his own. It is recorded that in 1461 he received a letter from Sigismondo Malatesta, Lord of Rimini, praising him for his appreciation of portrait images, and stating that through bronze the faces and virtues of famous men become widely known.

The noble and heroic portrayal of Mehmed II readily brings to mind his momentous victory at Constantinople in 1453, within just a few years of which this remarkably expressive portrait had been sketched and the medal cast. Re-discovered after more than five centuries, the *magnus princeps* medal provides an invaluable record of the great Ottoman ruler at the very height of his powers.

Provenance:

Christie's (Rome), 14 December 2000, 'Monete, medaglie, decorazioni e libri di numismatica', lot 696.

Recorded Examples:

A poor quality bronze cast of much later production, its detail largely indistinct, is in the Civiche Raccolte (Milan); an example in lead is in a private collection; and the existence of another, in lead or base metal, is yet to be confirmed.

Literature:

Babinger, Franz. *Mehmed the Conqueror and his time* (Bollinger series XCVI, Princeton, NJ 1978).

Hill, George Francis. *Corpus of Renaissance Medals*, 2 vols. text and plates (1930).

Raby, Julian. 'Pride and Prejudice: Mehmed the Conqueror and the Italian Portrait Medal', *Italian Medals* (ed. J. G. Pollard). Symposium Papers VIII (Washington, 1984).

Spinale, Susan, Reassessing the So-Called 'Tricaudet Medal' of Mehmed II', *The Medal* 42 (2003), p.3-22.

The medallist's monogram was discovered by the Islamic scholar and academic Robert Darley-Doran.

Further details of this medal and Mehmed II may be found online at www.the-saleroom.com/baldwins and www.baldwin.co.uk



130 † **Ahmad III (1115-1143h)**, Gold Presentation Five Ashrafi, Qustantaniyya 1115h, 13.57g (Pere Osmanlarda Madeni Paralar 504). *Has been mounted at 12 o'clock but expertly repaired, otherwise about extremely fine and extremely rare, especially without the usual piercing.* £15,000-20,000

This piece is generally considered to be the most beautiful of all Ottoman coins. It places the Sultan's *tughra* in what appears to be a garden, which, considering that the reign of Ahmad III was known as 'the Tulip Period', is entirely appropriate. These large presentation pieces were inspired by contemporary Venetian issues of similar size. Obviously they were not intended for daily circulation, but kept as family treasures, most often mounted for display.



131 † 'Abd al-'Aziz (1277-1293h), Gold Five Guineas/500-Ghurush, Misr 1277h, ry 15, 42.63g (KM 265).
Small edge knock at 9 o'clock on the obverse, otherwise extremely fine and very rare. £12,000-15,000

This magnificent Five Guinea / 500-Ghurush coin was struck in tiny numbers as gifts for the Khedive's family and court. Records of the Egyptian mint indicate that only 56 pieces of this denomination were ever struck.



- 132 'Abd al-Hamid II (1293-1327h), Silver Pattern Talari/20-Ghurush, Misr 1293h, ry 9, *obv* tughra of 'Abd al-Hamid II within wreath, mark of denomination below, *rev* the Arabic statement "Justice and Equity are the Foundations of the State", regnal year 9 above, all within ornamental frame, 27.94g (Krause Mishler Pn21). *Impaired proof, extremely fine and extremely rare.* £20,000-25,000

This pattern Talari bore the statement of the colonial reformers of Egypt, which was put forward as a serious suggestion for the new European-style coinage. This was perhaps one step too far for the traditional-minded Egyptian public. In the event, the statement was rejected, and a conventional reverse was selected for the actual coinage. It is thought that approximately ten sets of the 20-, 10- and 5-Ghurush of this type were prepared by the Berlin mint, only one of which appears to be intact today and this is in the Dar al-Athar collection in Kuwait.

MAHDI OF THE SUDAN



- 133 † **Anonymous temp. al-Mahdi (1298-1317h)**, Gold "Guinea", "Misr" 1255h, ry 2, 7.14g, the normal weight of an Egyptian Guinea is 8.50g (Krause Mishler 3). *Scuffed surfaces and lightly polished, otherwise about extremely fine and very rare.* £8,000-10,000

It is recorded that when the Mahdi seized power in the Sudan he used an Egyptian Guinea, bearing the *tughra* of the Ottoman Sultan 'Abd al-Majid as a pattern for his gold coinage. It is clear that this coin is a reasonable copy, but that it would only fool those who had to accept it in Umdurman (Khartoum), the Mahdi's capital. The weight of this coin matches that of the Ottoman Lira (7.2g) rather than that of the Egyptian Guinea (8.50g). It is said that fiscal difficulties caused the Mahdi to withdraw his initial good coinage from circulation before his death.

ALID OF TABARISTAN



- 134 **al-Hasan b. al-Qasim (first reign, 306-311h)**, Gold Medallion Dinar, mint name *fi khilafa abi-Muhammad bi-Amul*, 310h, 4.06g (unrecorded by Vardanyan; Album B1524). *Slightly crimped, otherwise about extremely fine and extremely rare.* £5,000-6,000

This is a previously unrecorded Dinar of this Alid *da'i* of Tabaristan. This coinage was discussed by Stern in his *Coinage of Amul* 1967 and recently by Aram Vardanyan in an article, *Numismatic Evidence for the Presence of Zaydi 'Alids in the Northern Jibal, Gilan and Khurasan from AH 250 to 350 (AD 864-961)*, in the *Numismatic Chronicle* 2010, where he passes from coinage dated 309h to 311h, omitting 310h.

BATINID



- 135 † **Muhammad I b. Buzurgumid (532-557h)**, Gold $\frac{1}{4}$ -Dinar, Kursi al-Daylam 555h, 1.42g (Album 1918).
A bold strike, good very fine and very rare. £3,000-4,000

The first ruler of the Isma'ili sect of Islam, Muhammad I bin Buzurgumid regularly placed his own name in the obverse field of his coinage, and in the reverse field 'Ali wali Allah Mustafa li-din Allah Nizar, which are the name and caliphal titles of the founder of his faith Nizar, the long-dead heir of the Fatimid Caliph al-Mustansir. In the event, after al-Mustansir's death in 487h / 1094 CE Nizar fled to Alexandria where he took the title *al-Mustafa li-din Allah*. Nizar then mounted an abortive revolt but was captured and murdered. Some of his followers broke away from the Fatimids, and later became famous as the Batinids or Assassins of Alamut in northern Iran. Their coinage began under Muhammad I bin Buzurgumid and continued for the remainder of the dynasty. It is a popular series, both because of its rarity and the light it shines on the development of the Isma'ili branch of Islam.

DULAFID



- 136 † **Ahmad b. 'Abd al-'Aziz (265-280h)**, Gold Medallion Dinar, Hamadhan 275h, without name of caliph, 2.78g (Bernardi 203 Mu; Album 1397P). *Crimped, otherwise good very fine and very rare.* £8,000-10,000

The legends on this traditional Abbasid style donative Dinar are interesting because the name of the caliph is omitted and that of the issuer, Ahmad, is placed in the lower line of both the obverse and reverse fields. This emphasises the personal nature of the donative, presumably given only to members of his own family and high-ranking administrators.



- 137 **Ahmad b. 'Abd al-'Aziz (265-280h)**, Gold Dinar, Hamadhan 278h, 4.64g (Bernardi does not record this date and type for Hamadhan; Album 1397). *About very fine and very rare.* £6,000-8,000

This coin, in distinction to the previous one, names both the Abbasid Caliph al-Mu'tamid and al-Mu'tadid as heir.

HARTHAMID



- 138 **Rafi' b. Harthama (268-283h)**, Gold Dinar, al-Muhammadiya 278h, 4.23g (Bernardi 208 Mh, 1 ref). *Slightly uneven strike, but good very fine and extremely rare.* £8,000-10,000

Rafi' bin Harthama was a vigorous participant in the game of "musical chairs" which was played out in Iran in the 3rd Century of the Hijra. He was the only member of his family to be acknowledged numismatically. On this coin he is known as *al-Mansur* (the Victor), an epithet that was probably given to him after his victory over the Alid of Tabaristan, Muhammad bin Ziyad. This hypothesis is confirmed by the presence of the Conquest or Victory Surah, number 48, in the obverse margin of this Dinar - "We have indeed granted you a manifest victory so that God may pardon you your sins of the past and the future and may perfect His blessing upon you". After the death of the last Tahirid in 268h / 882 CE Rafi' claimed Khurasan, and attempted a resurgence in central Iran. However, he was ultimately driven out and killed by the Saffarids in 283h.

SALJUQ OF KIRMAN



- 139 **Qara Arslan Beg Qawurd (440-465h)**, Gold Dinar, 'Uman 450h, 4.20g (unrecorded mint for this dynasty). *About extremely fine and the only known example.* £60,000-80,000

Unrecorded in the Central Bank of Oman's publication *The Coinage of Oman* by R & E Darley-Doran.

This is a previously unrecorded coin which confirms that after the expulsion of the Buwayhids from Fars, the coasts of Oman came under the sway of Qara Arslan Beg Qawurd, the Saljuq ruler of the neighbouring province of Kirman. While these lands remained under the Kirman Saljuqs until 536h, there was no numismatic evidence of their presence there until the discovery of this Dinar.

AFRASIYABID



- 140 **temp. Kiya Afrasiyab (c.753-776h)**, Gold Dinar, Sari 759h, 4.25g (see Album A2347, but no gold coins recorded for this dynasty). *Slightly uneven strike, good very fine and extremely rare.* £5,000-6,000

Album records that the Afrasiyabids were an ancient Iranian Mahdist dynasty in Mazandaran, which had several branches. Their coinage was all dated from 753h until around 776h. It is generally very difficult to assign it to any particular ruler as the coins are issued either anonymously or else they name the hidden Shi'ite Imam al-Mahdi Muhammad. On this previously unrecorded Dinar, the only gold coin known for this dynasty, the date 759h shows it to have been struck during the reign of Kiya Afrasiyab, but the spiritual ruler is named as *al-Sultan Mahdi* in the field legends.



141 **Uljaytu (703-716h), Gold Multiple Presentation Dinar, Madinat Baghdad 709h, 16.67g (Diler Ilhans UI-364, but unrecorded in gold).** *Slight weakness on the obverse rim at 2 o'clock, otherwise extremely fine and extremely rare.* £70,000-80,000

This beautiful piece is an example of Uljaytu's Type B Shi'a coinage, one of a series from the Baghdad mint which display Ilkhan artistry at its best. It is possible that this was a form of treasury coin intended for dispatch to the court of the Ilkhan for distribution at important ceremonies, for use as jewellery or family savings.



142 **Abu-Sa'id (716-736h)**, Gold Presentation Multiple Dinar, Baghdad 719h, 25.03g (Diler type C Ab 487, but unrecorded in gold). *Extremely fine and extremely rare.* £70,000-80,000

This is a special striking of the third of Abu Sa'id's coinage types, known by its distinctive obverse design as the "mihribi" type. While this style is frequently encountered in poorly struck examples of silver double Dirhams, gold of this size and type is previously unknown.



- 143 **Arpa Khan (736h)**, Gold Dinar, Baghdad 736h, 7.02g (Diler Arb 686, but unrecorded in gold). *About extremely fine and extremely rare.* £10,000-12,000

When Abu-Sa'id died without leaving a male heir, the administrators of the Ilkhan state cast about for a legitimate Mongol ruler. In their haste they chose Arpa Khan, a descendant of Hulagu's brother Ariq Bugha. He quickly made enemies by treating the amirs with contempt, upon which they declared that they would not recognise his rule. To ensure their position in the state administration, they nominated a puppet ruler, Musa Khan, to replace Arpa Khan. Conflict among the amirs led to a war which Arpa Khan looked likely to win, but, after a reign of no more than six months, he was defeated and executed.



- 144 **Musa Khan (736-737h)**, Gold Dinar, Tabriz 736h, 8.52g (Diler Ms 690) *Unevenly struck, very fine and very rare.* £8,000-10,000

The style of this Dinar is identical to the last coinage type of Abu-Sa'id, with the square Kufic *kalima* on the "religious" side of the coin. This type was employed by Arpa Khan, Musa Khan, Muhammad Khan and Taghay Timur. This design may have enabled a common exchangeability between the coinages of these short-lived rulers. Although the gold coinage was not struck to any fixed weight standard, and thus varied considerably in value from coin to coin, the silver was issued to a fixed standard of 2.88g for the double Dirham.



- 145 **Muhammad Khan (736-738h)**, Gold Dinar, al-Jazira 737h, 4.89g (type unrecorded by Diler). *Extremely fine and extremely rare.* £15,000-20,000

After the execution of Musa Khan yet another ephemeral Ilkhan appeared with the name Muhammad. He ruled for only two years before he too was captured by his enemies and executed. It is recorded that in 737h Musa Khan struck Dinars and Dirhams bearing the names of the four great pre-Islamic prophets, Nuh (Noah), Ibrahim (Abraham), Musa (Moses) and 'Isa (Jesus). In the same year, upon the accession of Muhammad Khan, the mint of al-Jazira (Jazira ibn 'Umar) issued a similar coinage bearing both the names of the pre-Islamic prophets and the four Orthodox Caliphs as well as his own, *Sultan Muhammad*. The choice of this rare type for this particular mint is altogether appropriate because the town is located close to the Jebal Judi (or Judi Dagħ), which was the traditional Mesopotamian site where Noah's ark grounded after the flood.



- 146 **Sati Beg Khatun (739h)**, Gold Dinar, Baghdad 739h, 2.16g (Diler type SA 722). *About extremely fine and extremely rare.* £8,000-10,000

By this time the leaders of the fragmented Ilkhan state turned in desperation to yet another leading figure in the Ilkhan family. This was Sati Beg Khatun, the sister of Abu-Sa'id. She initially married the Emir Choban, commander-in-chief under Abu-Sa'id, who ordered his execution, and then Arpa Khan forced her to marry him. After his death she was taken up by Hasan-i Kuchuk, who was the one to proclaim her Khan. Her nominal reign lasted for only nine months before she was removed from the throne because of engrained prejudice against female rulers. After her deposition she was made to marry Sulayman, yet another claimant of the Ilkhan throne. None of the very rare gold coins of Sati Beg are known to have been struck in Baghdad.



147 **Anonymous temp. Taghay Timur Khan (737-754h) or Sulayman Khan (739-746h), Gold Dinar, Shaykh Kabir (Shiraz) 740h, 4.45g (type unrecorded in gold by Diler). About extremely fine and extremely rare.** £4,000-5,000

This Dinar was struck at a time when the political confusion in what remained of the Ilkhan state left the mint officials so perplexed that they simply did not know who to name on the coinage of Shiraz. This coin from the shrine of the Great Shaykh may have been used as a way of generating income for the establishment and as a souvenir for visitors to take away.

QUTLUGHKHANID



148 **Shah Jahan (first reign, 694h), Gold Dinar , acknowledging the overlordship of Baydu Khan, Madinat Kirman, date off flan but 694h, 10.85g (Album T1938). Very fine and extremely rare.** £5,000-6,000

The Qutlughkhanid Atabegs of Kirman were in the administrative service of the Khwarazmshah ruler Muhammad, and they later became local rulers who served the Mongols. The early Ilkhans allowed the semi-independent rulers of southern Iran to issue their own coinage as long as they acknowledged the overlordship of the current ruler. Wherever a mint name is visible on their coinage it is always Kirman. Their gold coins do not adhere to any fixed weight, and this is an unusually heavy example. During his brief first reign Shah Jahan was a vassal of the ephemeral Ilkhan ruler Baydu. This is the only gold coin to bear his name and, as far as is known, the only one where Baydu is acknowledged as overlord.



- 149 **Nasir al-din Shah (1264-1313h)**, Gold 10-Ashrafi Medal, commemorating the Shah's 30th anniversary, (Tihran) 1293h, 34.61g (Rabino Coins, Medals and Seals of the Shahs of Iran, p.75, no.3). *Extremely fine and very rare.* £10,000-15,000

This magnificent medal is a product of the modern equipment used at the refurbished mint of Tehran. It provides a particularly fine representation of the arms of Iran where the lion and sun are displayed in full splendour.



- 150 **Nasir al-din Shah**, Gold Double Toman, commemorating the Shah's return from Europe, (Tihran), *obv* 1299h, *rev* 1307h, 5.69g (Krause Mishler 943). *About extremely fine and very rare.* £3,000-3,500

A number of commemorative medals were struck to mark Nasir al-din Shah's stately progress through the courts of Europe, where he was wined and dined and left behind many stories of his imperial ways. This coin was struck at the time of his triumphal return home. Unfortunately some of his ungrateful subjects did not show proper respect for him and he was assassinated by one of them in 1313h.

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shall rescind the sale and repay to the buyer the price paid by him. Save as provided herein, A H Baldwin & Sons Ltd shall not under any circumstances whatsoever be liable for any costs, expenses or damages (whether direct, indirect, special or consequential) incurred by the buyer in respect of any lot, whether or not as a result of any fault, imperfection, error or description or lack of genuineness or authenticity, including but not limited to loss of any kind of profit whatsoever.

(c) The Auctioneer does not accept the opinions of commercial third-party grading services. Refusal of such a service to grade a coin, or a difference of opinion on the grade of a coin, is not acceptable grounds for the return of a lot. Statements and opinions formed by third-party grading services based on their own independent research do not affect the auctioneers rights and conditions.

8. All lots are reserved at 80% of the lower estimate, with auctioneer's discretion.

9. Save as provided in the preceding paragraph of these conditions buyers must satisfy themselves as to the accuracy of their purchases at the time of delivery. A H Baldwin & Sons Ltd cannot be held responsible for any discrepancy which might be discovered after the lots have been removed from either the auction room or the auctioneers' premises.

10. A H Baldwin & Sons Ltd act solely as agents and shall not be responsible for any default by either the buyer or seller or for any action or claim which may arise in respect of any lot.

11. Each lot shall be held at the buyer's risk from the fall of the hammer. The lot or lots shall be removed by the buyer within seven working days after the date of the sale. A H Baldwin & Sons Ltd reserve the right to charge storage and to resell by auction or privately, without notice to the buyer, any lots not so removed.

12. Any part of the purchase price left outstanding after the auction pursuant to Condition 5 shall be paid in full within thirty days of the date of the auction. Without prejudice to any other rights, A H Baldwin & Sons Ltd reserve the right to charge interest on any overdue payment at the rate of three per cent per month. Seven working days' notice must be allowed for clearance of personal cheques before delivery can be made unless prior arrangements have been made with A H Baldwin & Sons Ltd. A 2% surcharge will be applied to credit card payments.

13. Buyers accepting commissions from third parties do so at their own risk and will remain responsible to A H Baldwin & Sons Ltd for full settlement according to these conditions.

14. Baldwin's are not responsible for any inaccuracies in information and results given verbally during or after the auction nor any errors in reports subsequently produced.

15. By making a bid the buyer acknowledges his acceptance of these Conditions and shall be bound by them.

16. If any buyer fails to comply with any of these Conditions, the lot or lots in respect of which the failure is made may at the discretion of A H Baldwin & Sons Ltd be put up again and resold. The damages recoverable from the defaulting buyer shall include, but not be limited to, the auctioneers' expenses and commission in respect of the resale and the amount (if any) by which the price obtained on the resale is exceeded by that obtained on the first sale.

17. A variation of these Conditions shall only be binding on A H Baldwin & Sons Ltd and the vendor if it is made in writing and signed by a duly authorised representative of A H Baldwin & Sons Ltd.

18. These Conditions shall take effect and be construed in accordance with the provisions of English law.

Methods of Payment

- Sterling transfer to **A H Baldwin & Sons Ltd**,
National Westminster Bank
P O Box 113, 2a Charing Cross Road
London, WC2H 0PD

Account number	24525146
Sort Code	60 40 05
IBAN	GB80NWBK60400524525146
Swift Code	NWBKGB2L

Please include your name and invoice number when sending instructions to the bank and inform **A H Baldwin & Sons Ltd** of your payment in order to speed-up the delivery of your purchases.

- Sterling cash, bank drafts and personal cheques made payable to **A H Baldwin & Sons Ltd** are also accepted.
- Card payments are subject to a 2% surcharge - including Mastercard, Visa, American Express and all non-UK cards. There is no charge for UK Debit cards.
- US\$ payments can also be accepted in the form of cash and cheques made payable to **A H Baldwin & Sons Ltd**, please ask for the auction exchange rate.
- EURO payments are accepted in the form of cash only. Please ask for the auction exchange rate. For bank transfers and cheque payments a charge of at least £10 must be added to the amount paid.



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Forthcoming Auctions:

March 2012

Apex Philatelic, Postal Auction 114, General Stamps

Postal, 15 March 2012

April 2012

Baldwin's Hong Kong Coin Auction 52, Far Eastern and World Coins, Medals and Banknotes

Hong Kong, 5 April 2012

Baldwin's Islamic Coin Auction 19, Specialist Coin Auction of Islamic Rarities

London, 25 April 2012

Apex Philatelic, Public Auction 115, General Stamps

Lingfield, 22 April 2012

May 2012

Baldwin's Auction 73, Coins and Medals including The Bentley Collection (Part I)

London, 8 May 2012

Baldwin's Islamic Coin Auction 20, Specialist Auction of Islamic Coins

London, 8 May 2012

Baldwin's Auction 74, Coins and Medals, including Islamic Coins

London, 9 May 2012

Baldwin's Summer Argenteum Auction, Coins and Medals

London, 26 May 2012

June 2012

Apex Philatelic, Postal Auction 116, General Stamps

Postal, 14 June 2012

July 2012

Baldwin's Islamic Coin Auction 21, Specialist Auction of Islamic Coins

London, 17 July 2012

Apex Philatelic, Public Auction 117, General Stamps

Lingfield, 22 July 2012

August 2012

Baldwin's Hong Kong Coin Auction 53, Far Eastern and World Coins, Medals and Banknotes

Hong Kong, 23 August 2012

September 2012

Apex Philatelic, Postal Auction 118, General Stamps

Postal, 20 September 2012

Baldwin's Auction 75, Coins and Medals

London, 25 September 2012

Baldwin's Auction 76, Coins and Medals

London, 26 September 2012

October 2012

Baldwin's Islamic Coin Auction 20, Specialist Auction of Islamic Coins

London, October 2012

November 2012

Baldwin's Autumn Argenteum Auction, Coins and Medals

London, 3 November 2012

Apex Philatelic, Public Auction 119, General Stamps

Lingfield, 4 November 2012

December 2012

Apex Philatelic, Postal Auction 120, General Stamps

Postal, 6 December 2012

January 2013

Baldwin's The New York Sale XXX, Ancient, Russian and World Coins

New York, January 2013

February 2013

Baldwin's Spring Argenteum Auction

London, February 2013

British and World Coins, Tokens and Commemorative Medals, in conjunction with the London Coin Fair, Holiday Inn

[N.B: These dates are provisional only and may be subject to change. Additional dates may be added later.]

Enquiries with items for inclusion in these and future sales are welcomed
Please contact Seth Freeman or Matthew Curtis

Meet us at the London Coin Fairs held in the Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury, London WC1

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